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THE HELPING HAND



BY

Mrs. C. M. Kirkland

NEW YORK.

1858



931.851

Kirkland

~~S. R. 143~~

Theological School

IN

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

—◆—
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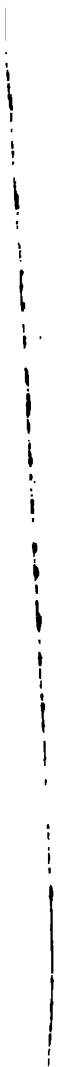
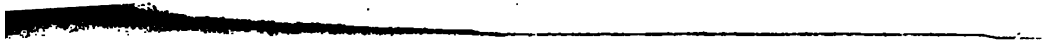
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THE HELPING HAND.





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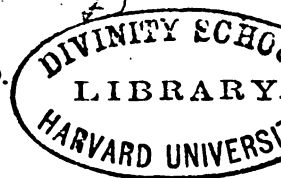
COMPRISING AN ACCOUNT OF

THE HOME,
FOR DISCHARGED FEMALE CONVICTS,

AND AN

APPEAL IN BEHALF OF THAT INSTITUTION.

Stansbury
Cardine Matilda
BY MRS. C. M. KIRKLAND.



Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name.

Ps. cxviii.

(SOLD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INSTITUTION.)

NEW YORK:
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1853.

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Kirkland

C. W. BENEDICT,
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201 William Street.

TO THE MEMORY OF
ISAAC T. HOPPER,

ONE WHOSE LONG LIFE WAS GIVEN TO THE UNHAPPY; WHO WOULD
FAIN HAVE WIPED THE TEARS FROM ALL EYES. AND, LIKE HIS
DIVINE MASTER, BROUGHT BACK THE DISOBEDIENT TO THE WIS-
DOM OF THE JUST,—THIS LITTLE BOOK WHICH WAS PREPARED
UNDER HIS ADVICE AND WITH HIS APPROBATION, IS REVERENTLY
INSCRIBED.

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How beautiful is all the visible world !
How glorious in its action and itself !
But we, who name ourselves its sovereigns—we,
Half dust, half deity, alike unfit
To sink or soar, with our mixed essence make
A conflict of its elements, and breathe
The breath of degradation and of pride,
Contending with low wants and lofty will,
Till our mortality predominates,
And men are—what they name not to themselves,
And trust not to each other.

WORDSWORTH.



THE HELPING HAND.

It may be they will present their supplications to the Lord, and turn every one from his evil way.—JER. xxxvi. 7.

THE HOME FOR DISCHARGED FEMALE CONVICTS WAS
OPENED JUNE 12th, 1845.

Since that time about nine hundred women have been received, and retained for various periods of time, according to their characters or their necessities. Those found worthy, have been provided with situations ; some cases of disease have been placed in the hospitals as unfit for the purposes of the Institution ; the irreclaimably vicious have been discharged, and the irresolute have themselves withdrawn, repelled by the labor and discipline of the Home.

Of the entire number, there is reason to hope that one-half have been signally benefitted ; from one-third good accounts have been received, and many cases are on record of the most remarkable reformation and return to

virtuous life ; many instances of deep and earnest gratitude, and some most honorable efforts to repay the Institution.

It is believed that the Home is the first Institution of the kind in the world ; although the need of a helping hand to the discharged convict is so obvious and so pressing, that the benevolent governors of English and French prisons have expressed the opinion, that without such a Refuge, all that can be done for the prisoner is useless, or nearly so.

A small, private Refuge, established by Miss Burdett Coutts, at Shepherd's Bush, near London, receives twelve young girls—discharged convicts—under the age of seventeen, and, after instructing them for one year, transports them to the Australian colonies, where places are found for them by the resident bishops. And in France, a benevolent clergyman has a farm on which a limited number of male discharged convicts are employed.

No attempt on a larger scale has, within our knowledge, yet been made, to carry out the benevolent intent of prison discipline, by offering ways and means to the discharged convict, in his helpless and outcast situation.

The sphere of the Home has no sectarian boundaries. Its efforts are truly Catholic. To advance "the kingdom

of our Lord and of his Christ," by reclaiming the lost and affording opportunity of return to the penitent, has been the sole object; and no sect or nation has been excluded or favored. Religious instruction is given from the Bible, by city missionaries and private friends, and the whole system of discipline and aid is based on a practical exemplification of gospel principles.

A school is held daily, in which all capable inmates are taught to read and write.

Sewing in all its varieties, and other feminine employments consistent with the means of the Institution, are taught and practised constantly. By these the inmates are able to contribute towards their own support, and if the plan could be so enlarged as to afford means for performing labor on a more extended scale, important advantages would be derived, not only pecuniary, but moral.

The great lack of the Home is a suitable BUILDING—affording means of classification and of profitable labor in the several departments, which cannot now be undertaken.

For this purpose generous sums are pledged, but all on condition that sufficient be subscribed to place the undertaking on a secure basis.

To aid this great object this little book is offered, in the

hope that a more complete exposition of the purposes and success of the Institution than can be offered in the compass of a Report, may call attention to its necessities, while a recapitulation of the arguments heretofore urged, may incline the public mind in its favor.

THE PRISONER.

Remember ! each his sentence waits,
And he that shall rebut
Sweet Mercy's suit, on him the gates
Of Mercy shall be shut.

CAMPBELL.

AMONG the objects and obligations of Christian charity so dwelt upon by our Saviour and his apostles, none has engaged so small a share of the world's attention as the condition of the prisoner. A few in every age have been found to care for him, and perhaps each age has seen this small number increase, in proportion to the spread of intelligence, and the consequent increase of general sympathy. But the *taste* of the public has always influenced its choice of objects of beneficence, and while other classes of sufferers have awakened the tenderest interest and the noblest liberality, the prisoner alone—always associated by our Lord in his teachings with the destitute, the sick and the wretched, whom to neglect is to forfeit the disciple's name—has been comparatively

forgotten. He has been treated as a public enemy ; given over, without a regret, to the law and its penalties ; as completely banished from the sympathies, and cut off from the efforts of beneficence, as if natural as well as civil death had been pronounced upon him. The community at large has been even more severe than the law ; for the inflictions of the latter cease when the allotted period of punishment has expired, while the former continues to pursue him who has paid the legal penalty, with a contempt, abhorrence, and total exclusion from social privileges, which would, of themselves, be heavy punishment for many offences.

This habit of treating the convict as the determined and irreclaimable enemy of society, has caused him actually to be deemed such by many otherwise humane and liberal people, as well as by the unthinking and selfish. Many a heart that would have been startled by the assertion that one who has been justly incarcerated, under the operation of our mild laws, is properly thenceforth excluded from the fellowship of man, if not from the mercy of God, has still given practical sanction to this monstrous error, by omitting the convict from its list of objects of charitable effort. There has long been a vague, traditional admiration of the character and labors of Howard, but very little sense of the necessity of

carrying forward the work which he spent and sacrificed his life to begin. The divine command to "visit the prisoner," and the apostolic injunction to restore a brother who had been found in a fault "in a spirit of meekness," is duly read and reverently listened to, in our churches and elsewhere; the pulpit has occasionally—too rarely!—given its echoes to these precepts. But the directors of public sentiment have never, even yet, taken up the cause of the prisoner with a heartiness of advocacy which would make it popular. For want of this sanction, the timid have felt it even unsafe to move in the matter. To avow a sympathy with the criminal—to treat him as a brother man—has seemed like confessing a toleration for crime; and the goodness which induces men to be generous in other cases, has really helped to lock up their hearts and hands against this form of distress.

We rejoice that this feeling is less general than formerly. We are happy to know there are, now, many who believe that one human being should never pronounce another hopeless, irreclaimable—the proper object only of painful inflictions and continued deprivation.


Much has already been done for the improvement of prison discipline, and for the preservation of whatever spark of virtue may survive in the convict's unhappy

bosom. In this good work our country has taken the lead, so that her example is quoted wherever the subject has awakened attention. It is a subject on which thought is sure to lead to action. It is, from its very nature, apt to escape notice ; for the prisoner is “ out of sight, out of mind,” and his sufferings do not obtrude themselves upon our sensibilities like those of the poor beggar by the wayside. But when once we think of what a condition it is to be thus forgotten, hard must be the heart, or obtuse the imagination, that is not stirred. The horror with which comfortable good people receive true and simple accounts of the character and circumstances of particular prisoners, is proof enough that they have never thought deeply upon the condition of prisoners in general—of imprisonment, in itself and its consequences, so productive of circumstances fitted to harrow up any feelings not less than human. When they do once think, they are apt to be zealous and efficient actors, as opportunity offers.

THE DISCHARGED CONVICT.

HE feedeth on ashes ; a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul.—ISA. xlv. 20.

BUT from the condition of the convict grows out another—new and distinct, but perhaps more miserable—that of the discharged convict. When one has committed an offence against the laws, and is sentenced to the penal infliction which he consciously incurred when he transgressed, the natural sense of justice comes in aid of fortitude, and he bears his punishment as he may, the thoughts of future liberty, perhaps reformation, holding up his heart, and nerving him for exertion under the most depressing circumstances. He needs, indeed, the cares and sympathy of his fellow-creatures, and it is the heaviest part of his punishment to be cut off, in great measure, from them. If he feel one emotion of penitence, if the faintest sigh toward a new and better life agitate his hapless bosom, how much does he need the support of a friendly countenance—the aid of a few friendly



words—the stimulus of such encouragement as the benevolent know how to offer. Without these, all but the hardened in crime find the prison a place of more unmitigated sorrow than any merciful laws would deem necessary ; not a few have lost their reason after a short endurance of such isolation.

But suppose this ordeal past ; look at the convict, after having served out his allotted time, and endured the utmost penalty prescribed by the laws, with, perhaps, some additions of severity which the laws did not contemplate. See him discharged ;—the gates he so often desired to pass closed behind him ; the sentinels yesterday so watchful of his every movement, now listlessly witnessing his departure from those walls hung thick with the groans of his late compeers. What are his thoughts ? Has he only to go back quietly to his home—be welcomed by his family and friends, and look about him for some honest occupation, that shall give him an opportunity to rebuild his reputation, while he repairs his shattered fortune ?

Ah, how different is the true picture ! The prisoner who repents, comes out upon the world a lost man ; it is only he who returns to society hardened in guilt, that returns as well off as before, and with the greater hope of success in his evil doing, because he has had time to

plan more cautious operations for the future. *He* finds companions ready to welcome him ; he is a sort of hero among those who have never tasted the horrors of incarceration ; his return to the haunts of vice is an inspiration to his fellows. But no jubilee greets the *penitent*. The wicked hate and fear him ; if they cannot entice him back to the old ways, they stop at no compulsion which may force him to become altogether such an one as themselves ; they make his life bitter with their taunts, or drive him from them with threats and execrations.

And do the good stand ready to receive the desolate wanderer, thus thrust forth from the ranks of his associates in crime ? Are they concerned to remove all stumbling-blocks from the new path, on which his steps, clogged with shame and weak with evil habit, are apt enough to falter ? Is there a detachment of the great army of the safe and happy, tender and forgiving from the consciousness of how their own way has been hedged about by Providence, waiting with earthly aid and encouragement, while the angels sing hymns of joy over the " sinner that repenteth ?"

Alas ! how different ! The old tragedy of the prisoner of the Bastile, who begged to be taken back again because there was no human sympathy left for him beyond those walls, is acted over again in some shape

every day. We fancy the wretched man, standing, feeble and alone, in the crowded street, his eyes dazzled with the unwonted light ; his poor heart aching with solitude ; his thoughts of the future a blank ; the grave the only tolerable spot in his prospect. But we do not think that from all our prisons, in this happy land,—this land of humanity, justice and equal rights,—our own brethren are issuing in a condition little better. Every eye averted ; every door closed ; every workshop dark with contempt ; the means of existence depending on labor which all refuse to afford—who would not go back even to the fatal warmth—the deadly comfort—of vicious companionship, rather than be thus

Alone on a wide, wide sea,
So lonely that even God himself
Scarce seemeth there to be !

RE-COMMITMENT.

Wo to him that is alone when he falleth, for he hath not another to lift him up.—ECCLES. iv. 10.

THE recurrence of the same names, again and again, on all our prison annals, is not so wonderful as it appears to the unreflecting. We are apt to think, “After all the experience of misery and disgrace; of ‘sorrow dogging sin,’—deprivation waiting on unlicensed indulgence—how can it be that any human creature subjects himself again to such a fate, voluntarily?”

Much acquaintance with prisoners and released convicts always suffices to convince the most skeptical, that there is little that should be termed “voluntary” in the ordinary cases of re-commitment. Setting aside a few utterly perverted beings, whose restless imaginations and boiling, uninstructed energies and passions propel them with inevitable forces into crime, till those who know them best are the most ready to accept the plea of “insanity”; setting these aside, the general truth is that

if true Christian aid—i. e., aid unpoisoned by the air of contempt and abhorrence—were proffered to every man and woman who has satisfied the requisitions of the law; if the state were as assiduous in prevention as in punishment of crime; thousands might live to bless the day when authority interfered to check the mad career of evil doing, and date from the moment of arrest by a wise and humane power, the beginning of reformation and moral sanity. Severe should be the penalty, but kind and hearty the effort to reclaim; that while the justice of the one is acknowledged, the mercy of the other may be felt. Nothing makes Justice so awful as the presence of the spirit of Mercy.

Is it supposed that to assist the discharged convict to return to the charities of regular and virtuous life is to interfere with the ends of justice? Let us answer by asking a question. Does the law require or contemplate that to its sentence of imprisonment shall be added a further penalty of eternal contempt and distrust, with their concomitants of starvation and misery, or new crime and continual re-commitment? Is it for the good of the community to keep bad men bad, or to persuade and help them to be virtuous? Shall we assail weak resolution with new and increased temptation, and take away from wavering steps those supports and that assistance

of society to which the strongest owe much of their
steadfastness ?

If a few kindly tears, by the merciful shed,
Touched his heart, it may be the good grain
That was sown there and rooted, though long seeming dead,
Might shoot up and flourish again.

And the smile of the virtuous, like sunshine from heaven,
Might chase the dark clouds of despair ;
And remorse, when the rock's flinty surface was riven,
Might gush out, and soften all there.

O ! to work such a change—by God's grace to recal
A poor soul from the death-sleep ! To this—
To this joy that the angels partake, what were all
That the worldly and sensual call bliss ?

MRS. SOUTHEY.

ASSOCIATION FOR RELIEF AND AID.

IN December, 1844, the Board of Inspectors of the State Prison at Sing Sing invited public attention to the condition of the discharged convict, in the following words :

“It is of frequent occurrence, that prisoners afford satisfactory evidence of sincere repentance and earnest desires to reform ; yet, when they go forth into the world, they are often, for want of employment, reduced to great distress and subject to sore temptations. To starve or steal is often the only alternative presented to them. The power of the Inspectors to afford relief in such cases, is confined by law to the mere pittance of three dollars to each person.”

A society was then proposed, and, soon after, organized, for the purpose of general aid to the prisoner, under the following heads :

“1. The amelioration of the condition of prisoners, whether detained for trial or finally convicted :

“2. The improvement of Prison Discipline generally :

“3. The relief of discharged convicts by affording them the means of obtaining an honest livelihood.”

Our present limits oblige us to confine ourselves to the case of the discharged convict, and especially the condition and difficulties of the female members of this unhappy class.

O FATHER, gracious was that word, which closed
Thy sovereign sentence—that Man shall find grace ;
For which both Heaven and Earth shall high extol
Thy praises, with the innumerable sound
Of hymns and sacred songs, wherewith thy throne
Encompass'd shall resound Thee ever blest.
For should Man finally be lost ; should Man,
Thy creature still so loved—thy youngest son,
Fall circumvented thus by fraud, though join'd
With his own folly—that be from Thee far,
That far be from Thee, Father, who art Judge
Of all things made, and judgest only right.

MILTON.

CARE OF FEMALE CONVICTS.

Sad regrets for past existence
Came like chilling breath ;
Shadowed in the forward distance
Lay the Land of Death.

THE Prison Association of course included in its plan the condition of female convicts, and under its constitution a number of ladies were invited to unite in a plan of action for their relief. This department dates its existence as a regularly organized body, from January 18th, 1845. Previous to that period, some ladies had prepared themselves for the work by visiting the various prisons, and reports of these visits were read at the initiatory meeting, to give a definite idea of the objects in view. The conclusion drawn from these reports, and from various statements of facts made on the occasion, was that little effectual could be done by the discharged female convict without a *place of reception*, where she

could be preserved from evil influences and subjected to beneficial ones, while a situation was being found for her.

Frequent meetings were held during the winter, at the house of one of the members, to report on the condition of female prisons, and to devise means of aiding the women after their release. It was ascertained that many of the inmates of our prisons professed a desire to lead new and better lives if help could be offered them, and of these not a few presented appearances which afforded rational ground of hope that they might be restored to respectability and usefulness. When women of this character were discharged, the Ladies' Committee endeavored to find shelter and employment for them, and some even received them into their families, rather than disappoint the expectations excited by the visits and conversation of the Association at the prisons. But the difficulty of procuring board in decent families, for women fresh from prison, proved so great, that it became evident to all that the Female Department could do nothing materially to benefit the subjects of their care, without a HOUSE in which to receive them; a temporary HOME, where kindness, order, neatness and industry, might all be brought into action, to fit them for residence among the regular and the good, who would, it was

hoped, be induced to give them a trial in that best of all moral schools, the humane and religious private family.

It is needless to recount the toils and delays which beset the attempt to open such a House of Refuge. Differences of opinion as to the expediency of the plan ; forebodings of failure for want of public support ; and a thousand other discouraging considerations, sincerely urged and deeply felt, seemed destined to impede, if not to crush entirely, any present effort towards the foundation of an institution, which aimed at no less an object than to assist a great city in caring for a very large and most degraded class ; to thin the ranks of female prisoners by preventing re-commitments, and to produce certain important changes in the condition and usefulness of prisons themselves.

But every month's records making it plain that without a house nothing could be done for the hundreds of females committed and re-committed for every variety of offence, doubts and fears gave way to the necessity of the case, and the Ladies' Committee, as with one voice, were urgent with the parent Association to aid them in establishing a Home, for the temporary reception and training of such discharged female convicts as might show a disposition to reform.

The consent of the Association having been obtained -

house was at length procured, and, on the 12th of June, 1845, opened for the reception of such females as should come recommended by the proper authorities of the several prisons. Competent matrons were secured, and a considerable amount of furniture contributed by various benevolent individuals.

Her history is written in her face ;
 The bloom hath left her cheek, but not from age ;
 Youth, without innocence, or love, or grace,
 Blotted with tears, still lingers on that page !
 Smooth brow, soft hair, dark eyelash, seem to wage
 With furrowed lines a contradiction strong :
 Till the wild witchcraft stories which engage
 Our childish thoughts, of magic change and wrong,
 Seem realized in her—so old, and yet so young !

* * * * *

Oh, since this is and must be, by a law
 Of God's own holy making, shall there not
 Fall on thy heart a deep, reflecting awe,
 When thou shalt contemplate the adverse lot
 Of those by man but not by Heaven forgot ?
 Bend to the lowly in their world of care ;
 Think, in thy palace, of the wretch's lot ;
 And justify the still unequal share,
 By all thy power to aid, and willingness to spare !

USES OF THE HOME.

BUT let us measure help by their deep woe ;
Are we, indeed, as powerless to aid
As they to struggle ? Conscience whispers " No !"
Conscience, that shrinks, uneasy and afraid,
Condemn'd, if that brief answer must be made ;
Though in the cowardice that flies the pain
A spark of better nature is betrayed,
Proving, if their appeal could entrance gain,
Our hearts could not be roused and spoken to in vain !

MRS. NORTON.

WITHOUT attempting to give, in this little manual, anything like prison statistics for the city of New York, ample tables of which will be found in the Annual Reports of the Prison Association, we may observe that the amount of commitments of women for short periods is so large, as to astonish those who notice that in our State Prisons the number of women confined for crimes is small in proportion to that of men. This is accounted

for, only by a knowledge of the fact that an enormous proportion of the degradation of women in this city, is the direct consequence of strong drink. The habit of indulging in it, and the incessant desire for it, prove the most formidable obstacles to any effort to redeem the unhappy creatures from their wretched condition, even when their own wish is sincere. After tears and promises evidently genuine, and even after partial reformation, this is their great difficulty. It is only by the most incessant watchfulness, and the total absence of all temptation for a length of time, that there is any hope of release from this terrible bondage.

That an establishment like the Home is imperatively demanded by the necessities of this city, cannot be doubted by any, who will give the subject one moment's reflection. All the arguments urged with irresistible force for the formation of the original Association, apply without modification to the provision of a shelter for released females, who can be aided in no important respect while they are wandering in the haunts of infamy, beset with temptations on every side, and sure to have whatever good resolutions may have dawned in their benighted souls swept away, by those who lie ever in wait to prevent any escape from the ranks of degradation. Whatever reformatory influences might be exerted

in the prison—and unfortunately those are at present sadly disproportioned to the necessities of the case—when a woman leaves prison penniless, or with a few shillings in her pocket, her almost inevitable fate is a return to vice, unless an asylum be at hand. Benevolence may exert itself to procure a situation for her, but for this, time is required ; and where is the outcast to remain in the interval ? Where can she stay for a single night ? This may seem extravagant, but those who have made the attempt will testify that to find any respectable home, bed or board, for the recent female convict, is almost an utter impossibility. To say to her “ Go for the present, and when I have found a place I will send for you,” is to send her back almost certainly to a state “ worse than the first.” Without character—money—clothes—home—friends—what is, what can be her resource ? Let our city records answer ; let perpetual re-commitment—street brawls—midnight murder—despairing suicide—speak what language is inadequate to describe.

CONDITION OF THE FEMALE CONVICT AFTER HER DISCHARGE.

What hope remains?

Seest thou not thou hast sinned? That thou hast sinned

It glads me not to speak of, and grieves thee—

Then let it pass from both, and seek thyself

Some outlet from despair.

WHATEVER has been said of the hopeless condition of the discharged convict in general, when the case of the female convict comes to be considered; when we see the desolate creature humbled to the dust, trembling under the sense of weakness and degradation, and scarcely believing in the existence of human sympathy—we feel that the half has not been told us. The first impression is that of almost despair as to the power of any thing short of miracle to raise the abject being to any sense of self-respect. A degraded woman is proverbially lowest in the scale of humanity; and when years have confirmed vicious habits, and hardened the offender into recklessness;

we acknowledge the difficulty of any attempt to implant new principles, or awaken a regard for character. But with the young, and with the numerous class who still retain a remnant of womanly feeling and a hope of redeeming the past, with these, to say the least, there is yet hope. But Society naturally confounds all in one general estimate, one sentiment of abhorrence. Without some special aid from such as make the subject their study, and who by attention and practice become conversant with its details, it is impossible that the public should discriminate. A woman who has ever been imprisoned—a discharged female convict—must necessarily be an outcast from society. Who will employ such an one? What family will receive as an inmate a creature fresh from the penitentiary? Who can trust a woman who has been convicted of theft? What mother will introduce among her daughters or her servants one familiar with the Tombs? It cannot be expected. Whatever may have been the conduct of the prisoner during her incarceration; whatever certificates she may have been able to obtain, even from faithful and judicious officials, so seldom found—there is a moral atmosphere about her which effectually repels even the charitable, and which makes the unthinking and the selfish turn from her with abhorrence. She may starve—she may

beg—she may return to vice, or she may put an end to her hateful life, nobody feels to blame. But here the Prison Association steps in. If there be a remnant of decency—if the least faint wish to try a better life—the Home is opened to receive her. A kind matron welcomes her, inquires into her wants, her history, her feelings; gives her the means of cleanliness and decency; finds employment for her; ascertains her character and disposition; searches for what germs of goodness may yet be remaining; and if there be but a smouldering spark of virtuous hope, sedulously preserves it from extinction.

She remains in the Asylum, treated, not with a supercilious, a cold, a spurious kindness, but as a woman and a sister, until her views, her powers, her qualifications for earning a subsistence, and the sincerity of her desire for reformation, have been fully tested; and, if the result prove satisfactory, a place suited to her ability is provided, and she is placed with those who, understanding clearly her past history and present condition, are willing to try her. If, from any cause, the first attempt meet with ill success, the Home is again open, lest destitution should once more betray her into the dens which night and day yawn for such victims; and it is not until repeated trials have extinguished all rational hope, that she is ever abandoned to her evil fate.

PLAN OF THE HOME.

AND what is this place not seen
Where Hearts may hide serene?
'Tis a fair house well-kept,
Which humble thoughts have swept
And holy prayers made clean.

ALL the security required by private benevolence before it dare offer the hand of Christian love and pity to the returning wanderer, is afforded by an institution where time and opportunity are given for ample insight into the character of the released convict. Her general condition, her turn of mind, her capacity for usefulness, are all tested here. The quiet regularity of a well-ordered family is brought to bear upon her erratic habits; neatness and industry exhibit themselves to her in place of the disorderly idleness in which she grew up; rules press upon her; plain fare, devoid of stimulants, is substituted for the alternate want and riot to which she

has been accustomed ; motives are offered her ; encouragements for good behaviour held out, with the certainty of rejection if she refuse to submit to or attempt to elude the necessary restraints. She is emphatically on her good behaviour ; for as her stay is entirely voluntary, the only condition being conformity to rule and willingness to labor, her sense of honor is called up, and she begins to be aware of such a power within her. Let those who know that fallen one, the female convict, only by hearsay, smile, if they will, at this expression. We who have had ample opportunity to read her heart for ourselves, know that even in that dark recess there is still a spark of what well deserves the name of honor ; something that with culture and happy influences may, in no small number of instances, prove to be the germ of future good. Few, indeed, whom it has been our lot to encounter, have been destitute of this ground of hope. In few is a desire to be respected, or even a feeling of womanly pride, entirely extinguished. Far from learning to think worse of these unhappy creatures by frequent intercourse and close observation, the more we see of them the more we feel encouraged in the labor of restoration. They often begin with a feeling of distrust towards us still greater than ours toward them. They disbelieve in the reality of our friendship ; they have not

the least faith in disinterested benevolence. It is sad to see how keenly they watch for our motives, and how long it takes, in some cases, to obtain their confidence. But when once they are convinced ; when the suspicion of sinister design, which is but the reflex of their own unhappy lives, is dispelled—how quickly do their cunning reserve and their false pride melt away ! When they once believe that we are come to meet them, as woman to woman, in the sole hope of doing them good, their hearts are touched at once ; and even though evil habit and hereditary ill-tendency, and the hankering after well-remembered companionship in revelry and license, may crush the benign impulse, and seem to render abortive all our efforts and our hopes, we have reason to believe that even then, our labors have not been thrown away. God only knows what is accomplished ; but even we are permitted to know, sometimes, that when all seemed lost there was yet a fruitful seed remaining, ready to spring up and bear fruit in after time, as if to leave us no excuse for despair in any case.

HOPE OF IMPROVEMENT.

And so my hope was slain
Had it not been that THOU wert standing near ;
O Thou who saidest " Live ! " to creatures dying !
For Thou her forehead to Thy heart didst rear,
Making its silent pulses sing again,
Pouring a new light o'er her darkened eyne
With tender tears from thine.


MRS. BROWNING.

WHEN we would attempt to plead for the female convict, we are ready to ask a feather from an angel's wing ! How else render attractive a subject naturally so repulsive ? How expect to gain the attention and sympathy of those, who, having never been tempted to quit the beaten path of rectitude, find it hard to believe that the poor, disgraced wanderer, to whom a prison atmosphere has become natural, and the society of felons congenial, is still a woman and a sister ? We might indeed comment largely upon the impulsive benevolence of most human hearts, if nothing intervened to check its

flow ; but society has, by general consent, fixed a limit, beyond which benevolence is not expected to extend. Ignorance, and want, and sorrow, and temptation, are legitimate claims to Christian sympathy up to a certain point ; but if they lead to the prison door, all obligation—all brotherhood ceases. “ Bid Hope farewell, all ye who enter here,” might well be inscribed over the door of every female prison. As far as society is concerned, these prisons are, in fact, *oubliettes* ; not, indeed, always furnished with implements of physical torture, like the dens so called in the castles of the feudal ages ; but, like them, places in which to be forgotten, lost ; stricken from the rolls of humanity ; given over to perdition without a struggle or a thought. By some strange fallacy of social arbitration, a *man* who has outraged all laws, divine and human, is still a subject of hope ; he may serve out the dreary years of his prison life, and enter upon a new one afterwards with fresh opportunities and unbroken spirit ; while a woman once fallen is renounced by her kind. Why should the cases be so different ? We concede that even a comparatively small fault shows hideous in the female character ; the feeling is an instinctive testimony (let the seeming arrogance be pardoned !) to the general goodness of the sex. But when a woman who has been unsexed by baneful early influences, or led astray more

through weak virtue than through intentional wickedness, is drawn into crime by the example or deception of those she loves, and falls so low as to bring herself under the condemnation of the law of the land, has she justly cast herself off from all future claim upon the care and sympathy of her race? Punishments for ordinary offences are usually of limited duration; is that of woman to be considered as rightfully extending to the term of her natural life? If the law is satisfied with incarceration for one or two or five years, is it the duty of society to superadd perpetual banishment from the sphere of all those sweet and gentle charities, concessions, compromises and allowances, so necessary to us all? Forbid it justice! forbid it humanity! forbid it that secret sense of ill-desert, lying deep in the heart of every one of us, in view of our accountability to God, and our dependance on His mercy!

We should be disposed to view the determined exclusion of the female convict from the ordinary sympathies of the world, as unmitigated cruelty, if we looked upon it in the abstract, and simply as a question with regard to society at large. But, after much observation and experience in the matter, we are aware that, practically, almost insuperable obstacles rise up in the path of individual benevolence, when it would step



forward to the relief of the discharged female prisoner. Without greater opportunity for the study of character than is possible in most cases, the risk of receiving into a private family a woman with the prison atmosphere still thick about her, is too great to be encountered by any but Howards, or Sarah Martins; and even those pioneer saints in the great crusade against inhuman neglect, confined their efforts to the melioration of the prisoner's fate, keeping still inviolate the sanctity and safety of their own homes, and leaving the further lot of those who outlived prison horrors to be provided for by another class of philanthropists. Even they would have been startled by a proposition to receive into their families the objects of their heaven-inspired care. *This has been done, again and again*, in our own land, our own city, by those whose good deeds are never blazoned to the world; but it is what we can expect of very few. It needs indeed a portion of the Master's spirit and of the zeal of Peter and the nobleness of Paul, for such works as these. But ordinary benevolence requires some security, before it can receive the discharged female convict without a shudder of fear and disgust. It asks that some probation shall intervene between the prison and the family. It would know, and very reasonably too, whether some taint of disease may not have accompanied the prison

inmate beyond the walls ; and whether there be sufficient desire or willingness for reformation, to secure the unhappy penitent from the first temptations of liberty.

Thus shut out, by sad necessity, from natural homes, best schools of human character, the refuge of the discharged female convict is the Home created expressly for her sore need and outcast destitution by the hand of benevolence. Here everything is adapted to her peculiar condition ; here her shame is in a manner hidden, while better thoughts and habits are growing up in her ; here she is taught the means of honest livelihood, and whatever ability she has is brought out and fostered. Here many have, already, in this humble, quiet retreat, discovered the secret of life ; here many have mourned over the delusions of the past, and formed new resolutions for the future—resolutions which, our records attest, have in many instances been nobly kept.

ESTIMATE OF SUCCESS.

Accounts that may be summed up in dollars and cents admit of exact balances and actual demonstration ; those whose subject-matter is human souls demand a wider scope—a more liberal margin—different grounds and bounds of calculation. In mentioning the number of weak and wavering creatures that have sought the kindly shelter of our Institution—the proportion of that number who have been enabled to maintain the upward step, made when they accepted our guardianship, and the sadder class, whose virtue went out at the first breath of temptation, as a scarce lighted lamp dies by the summer breeze—we state facts—dry facts—of more or less value ; of great value, as affording sure ground for future acting and future hope ; of less, as giving the least sanction to the suggestions of timidity or indolence, or as furnishing heartless reasons for the carelessness of the selfish or the scoffs of the unbeliever in the possibility of moral

recovery. For while we may indeed rejoice, with thankful hearts, over such as prove, by continuance in well-doing, how true was their yearning after a better life, how can we say what seeds of good may have been sown in minds once more led astray, by temptations whose power we can but dimly guess at? Again and again have we had occasion to find that even repeated aberration is not inconsistent with a leading desire for better things. More than once has it been our comfort to discover, that even those who, after repeated trials, we had learned to class among the hopeless, had still preserved, in some happier corner of the better nature, a remembrance of our advice—our entreaties—our cautions—our promises of aid ; which, after all, and when we ourselves had almost forgotten them, in new cases of interest, have led back to our doors the repentant wanderer, with tears of humility and persuasion, true waters of healing, gracious promise of new aims and resolutions, never again to languish beneath the baleful power of evil habit and evil association. If we see too often the bitter fruit of deep-sown seeds of vicious sentiment, we witness no less clearly the greater and more surely germinating power of truth and goodness ; and every day teaches us the value and efficacy of a practical adoption of our motto—
“Never Despair.”

Holding, as we sincerely do, and as our practice shows that we hold—these views as to the proper ground for a computation of our success, it is, perhaps, not wonderful that those who think differently of the good to be accomplished among women so lamentably fallen that society has shaken them from her lap as refuse, should find our hopes extravagant, and our account of results futile or vain-glorious. We have but one appeal to make to those who sincerely make this objection—Come and see! The way to think well of this work—i. e., to obtain a true idea of it—is to engage in it personally. One year's service at the Home, in the capacity of manager, and in the duties of the various committees that divide among them the labors of each month, will do more towards giving a just idea of the nature of the undertaking, and the encouragements which cheer us onward and authorize the hopeful tone of our Reports, than whole volumes of argument. We long to have our doings and our successes searched into and sifted; for we need an accession of hearty workers in the cause, and we know that a nearer survey of the field would result in bringing laborers to the harvest. Rich grain there is, though beaten down by storms; trampled under foot of men; nipped by cruel frosts; thunder-smitten; decaying; all but lost! Lost it need not be, for with God there is help,

and He condescends to work by humble instruments and seemingly simple means. Woman is the natural and God-appointed aid of woman in her needs; the woman that feels not this, has yet to learn her mission aright. Among the most precious of Woman's Rights is the right to do good to her own sex; "against such there is no law," but in its favor every law of fellow-feeling, of sisterly kindness, of modesty and propriety. Sad it is that fallen woman hopes less from her sisters than from her brothers; that it is more difficult to convince her of woman's forgiveness than of man's or God's. It is time this were altered. It is time that women—excused from many of the severer duties assumed by the other sex—should consider themselves as a community, having special common needs and common obligations, which it is a shame to them to turn aside from, under the plea of inability or distaste. *Every woman in misfortune or disgrace is the proper object of care to the happier and safer part of her sex.* Not to stretch forth to her the helping hand—not to labor for her restoration to respectability—not to defend her against wrong and shield her from temptation—is to consent to her degradation and to become, in some sense, party to her ruin. Because, from the very nature of the case, if women deny her claim, she has no natural friend; none who can fully sympathize

with her, or whose countenance and aid will incline the world in her favor. To the ladies of this city, therefore ; to the possessors of happy homes ; to honored wives and devoted mothers, whom Providence has blessed abundantly and guarded on every side, we look for efficient aid in the maintenance of the Home. Let those who have leisure, give their time ; let those who are occupied, give their money ; let the wise give counsel, and the young energy and activity—only let all help in their degree and measure. Much has been done—more remains to be done. The Home has been sustained ; its inmates have labored for their subsistence ; charitable women have given their services to it for years ; its matrons have been true friends and sisters to the unhappy wanderers, who have found peaceful shelter and honest employment within its walls. • But all has been accomplished under more or less disadvantage. Operations have been curtailed ; usefulness limited ; labor wasted, for want of due accommodations. A building is necessary—one which shall be so adapted to the wants of an Institution unique in our country, and, as far as we know, in the world, as to afford facilities not only for the shelter, treatment and instruction of a larger number of inmates than we are now able to receive, but for the performance of various kinds of business in so advantageous a way as

may conduce largely to the support of the house. Such experience, in this direction, as we have been able to accumulate, under many restrictions and disadvantages, has taught us to how great an extent this is possible. Our inmates being neither invalids nor children, nor yet deprived of the use of any of their bodily senses, it is obvious that we ought to make the labor which we find so conducive to their moral sanity, efficient in lessening the cost of their support. Besides the hours spent every day in school-instruction—the beneficial results of which we can hardly over-rate—there remains time enough for a large amount of business, hitherto performed in an imperfect and losing way for want of the proper room and means. We trust this state of things will not be allowed to continue; but that public liberality, in aid of the funds which we have been anxiously accumulating for the purpose—the fruit of generous donations, bequests, &c.—will enable us to commence, with the opening spring, such a building as will afford us an opportunity of trying what may be done towards restoring the discharged female convict to the feelings and duties of womanhood, and so, in the only effectual way, preventing her from successive re-commitments—a fruitful source of increasing vice, as well as of serious increase to the burthens of the community.

INSTRUCTION.

THE heart has tendrils, like the vine,
Which round another's bosom twine,
Outspringing from the parent tree
Of deeply-planted sympathy,
Whose flowers are hope, its fruits are bliss,
Beneficence its harvest is.

There are some bosoms, dark and drear,
Which an unwatered desert are :
Yet there a curious eye may trace
Some smiling spot, some verdant place,
Where little flowers, the weeds between,
Spend their soft fragrance all unseen.

Despise them not—for wisdom's toil
Has ne'er disturbed that stubborn soil ;
Yet care and culture might have brought
The ore of truth from mines of thought ;
And fancy's fairest flowers had bloomed
Where truth and fancy lie entombed.

Insult them not ! Their blackest crime
May, in our Maker's eye sublime,
In spite of all thy pride, be less
Than even thy daily waywardness ;
Than many a sin and many a stain
Forgotten and impressed again.

There is, in every human heart,
Some not completely barren part,
Where seeds of love and truth might grow,
And flowers of generous virtue blow.
To plant, to watch, to water there,
This be our duty, this our care !

And sweet it is the growth to trace
Of worth, of intellect, of grace,
In bosoms where our labors first
Bid the young seed of spring-time burst ;
And led it on, from hour to hour,
To ripen into perfect flower.

Flow on, Instruction, ever flow !
Change Nature's face to man below ;
A paradise once more disclose,
Make deserts bloom with Sharon's rose ;
And through a Saviour's mercy shed,
Raise each forlorn and drooping head.

DR. BOWRING.



PARTICULARS OF THE PLAN OF REFORM.


Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more. That which I see not, teach thou me ; if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.

He looketh upon man, and if any say I have sinned, and perverted that which was right and it profited me not, He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.—JOB.

THE house at present and for several years occupied as the Home, is an ordinary three story one, 191 Tenth Avenue, on the western side, commanding from its back windows a fine view of the Hudson and its opposite shores, and having also the benefit of a free circulation of air—one of the requisites for health, vigor and cheerfulness in the inmates. Whatever accommodations such a dwelling can afford, have been made the most of, and all the arrangements are promotive of comfort, neatness, regular habits, and economy both of time and money. Equal skill and care employed in an edifice calculated for

the purpose, would tell very differently on the usefulness and prosperity of the Institution ; for confined space and deficient accommodations are more disadvantageous, both morally and industrially, than can well be conceived by any but those engaged in the undertaking. The inmates share the household labor among them, being alternately called on to aid in the kitchen ; while on the second floor two large rooms are always devoted to needle-work and instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, in which many have made encouraging progress, under the care of faithful and devoted teachers. It is the practice of these ladies to read aloud to those occupied in sewing, and the value set upon this by the inmates is quite remarkable. Hymns are also sung—an exercise in which they greatly delight.

It need hardly be said, that in an Institution intended for the reformation of a peculiarly lawless class, and who come and remain at their own choice, and only during pleasure, all harshness is avoided, and only appeals to reason and the better feelings, alive in almost every heart, employed in the attempt to train these poor creatures. There are stringent rules, however, and much care is taken to make the Home a place of discipline, and not of ease or license. The matrons use no *hauteur* towards even the most degraded, but endeavor to approach and



interest them by kindly sympathy, while they allow no trifling with the rules of the house. In most cases they very soon obtain, in some degree, the confidence of the new comer, and by learning some of the particulars of her past life, are able to judge of the best mode of treatment and the prospect of good to be accomplished. As has already been stated, strong drink is the main cause of degradation among our subjects, and as this is, of course, excluded from the Home, it requires not a little vigilance and firmness to prevent its being obtained secretly, and to dissuade from the use of it, turning the attention to better things. One of the rules of the house prohibits any inmate from going out without leave; the temptation to this being principally liquor. Tea and coffee are allowed, of moderate strength, but no other stimulants. The table is strictly frugal, offering no inducements to the idle or vicious to remain for the sake of living free of cost. This, with the requisition of constant, regular and quiet labor, proves ample security against any inmate remaining after she has lost all intention to reform. When any one arrives at this point, she is generally quite as anxious to leave, as we are desirous of getting rid of her. Yet even after this mad preference of the misery of a life of infamy to one of decency with labor, there are sometimes instances of a

return to sanity, when humiliation, repentance and entreaty induce another trial, not always fruitless.

Each inmate, when received, undergoes an examination, and a thorough cleansing, the bath being made one of the duties of the establishment. Decently clothed, she is then introduced to the work and school rooms, her abilities ascertained, and her labor assigned ; the rules of the house are read to her and her assent required, with the explanation of her duties and a full understanding on her part of what is expected of her. Special watchfulness is exercised for a certain time, in order to judge of her sincerity, and if her story renders it probable that she may have some decent relatives, an attempt is made to excite their interest, in aid of her desire to return to regular life. Many have been so evidently the victims of the wickedness of others, that strong hopes are entertained of them, from the outset ; and in many cases, the event proves that the moral gradations are as observable among convict women as in the broader field of the world. If all the true stories of these women were written down and published, the world would open its eyes with astonishment, at the things going on unsuspected under the specious surface of society. Such instances of deception, enticement, sedulous corrupting of inexperience, and dreadful cruelty, no writer of

romance ever invented. Not that all the stories of the discharged convict are to be received as true, for if there be any vice developed in the course of a life of intemperance and its consequences, it is that of falsehood. If we would believe prisoners, no one of them was ever incarcerated justly. They are all innocent victims of society, which they seem to consider as delighting to persecute and oppress them.

“The world is not their friend, nor the world's law.”

But experience pays little heed to these claims of inoffensiveness. When we speak of sad stories, we intend only those of which ample proof is forthcoming. These are quite numerous enough to make good our remarks; and perhaps there will some day be an attempt to collect and publish them from our records, that some, at least, of the causes of female degradation in our city may be known.

RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HOME.

THE Matron shall regulate the household arrangements, subject to the supervision of the Board of Managers.

Applicants are to be examined at the first meeting of the House Committee ; if retained, they are to remain at least one month, unless discharged for a specified reason.

The Home shall protect, support, and find places for those who labor diligently and conform to the rules of the house. When such places are found as the Committee deem suitable, the inmates shall accept them, or be liable to immediate dismissal.

The inmates are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly, peaceable manner ; to avoid all profane and indecent language ; to give up in every mode the use of tobacco, and to treat one another with kindness and respect.

Persons received into the Institution having money in

their possession, are required to give it into the hands of the Matron for safe keeping.

No inmate to leave the premises, or make purchases, without the approbation of the Matron.

An inmate going out on an errand and returning intoxicated, is liable to immediate dismissal.

An inmate who has wilfully left the Home, without the approbation of the Committee, cannot be received again without the consent of the Executive Committee.

The bell shall ring at half-past five o'clock. Family worship to commence at six ; every member of the family shall be present, unless prevented by sickness ; and every case of absence to be reported to the committee. Upon these occasions the Scriptures shall be read, and such other religious exercises as shall be deemed expedient.

Breakfast at half-past six, and the business of the day to commence at seven.

No work to be taken out of the sewing-room.

Religious worship to be held regularly on the Lord's Day, when every member of the family shall be present, unless prevented by causes beyond their control ; all cases of absence to be reported.

The inmates are expected to retire to bed at nine o'clock ; every light in the chambers to be extinguished at half-past nine, unless by order of the Matron.

No press of work to interfere with the regular progress of the school.

It is earnestly recommended that every inmate should bathe at least once a week ; oftener is desirable.

No inmate to go into the kitchen on any occasion whatsoever, unless by order of the Matron, excepting those who are selected to do the household work.

The inmates shall pay all due respect to the Officers of the Institution, under pain of dismissal ; and shall treat each other with courtesy. All ungenerous remarks, personal allusions, or sarcastic language, shall be carefully avoided, by which the feelings of any inmate may be wounded, or the business or harmony of the Institution be interrupted.

These Rules are to be read to each person upon being admitted into the Institution. Any infringement or neglect of them must be reported to the House Committee, who shall inquire into the case, and dismiss the offender, or receive an apology, at their discretion.

WHAT IS OUR DUTY?

LET us commence what we have to say on this subject, by quoting a portion of one of the Reports of our beloved friend and helper in this cause, Father Hopper, now gone to his reward :

“The reign of the Messiah, ‘who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth,’ is foreshadowed by the prophet in the following terms :

‘Then shall the wolf take up his abode with the lamb,
And the leopard shall lie down with the kid ;
And the calf, and the young lion, and the fatling together,
And a little child shall lead them ;
And the heifer and the she-bear shall feed together,
Together shall their young ones lie down ;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox ;
And the suckling shall play upon the hole of the aspic ;
And upon the den of the basilisk shall the new-weaned child lay
his hand :

They shall not hurt, nor destroy, in all my holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah,
As the waters shall cover the depths of the sea.'

"When the day shall come, so beautifully portrayed by the prophet, we shall then look upon all men as brethren, the children of one father, and delight in doing one another good; the erring will be the objects of our peculiar sympathy and regard. And in what holier or better work can we be engaged, than in extending to such, a hand of help; it has a tendency to soften and purify the heart, and warm the affections; while we are doing good to others, we are receiving good ourselves. Then let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not; let us persevere, and if we cannot accomplish all the good we wish, let us do all the good we can. Let us do whatsoever our hands find to do, and not be reaching forward to objects that we can never attain to."

One of the objects that do certainly lie within the compass of rational effort, is the diminishing of crime and destitution in a great city. In our own city of New York, so favored in many respects—in advantages of site, prosperity and intelligence—crime and misery have been steadily on the *increase*, until we now surpass the

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metropolis of the Old World in all that can disgrace and degrade human nature. To speak of a single item—in the crime of murder, New York exceeds London five-fold ; and in the ways that lead to murder we are travelling with ever accelerating speed. Prevention is of course the first dictate of prudence, as well as humanity ; to sit down calmly in the face of a state of things such as is now unfolding under the researches of men determined on City Reform, is equally foolish and wicked. Something must be done, even for the public safety ; something, surely, on higher grounds !

A recent leading article in the *New York Courier and Enquirer* commences thus :

“ Want, Vice, and Crime have Increased in this City, are Increasing, and ought to be Diminished. Believing most firmly that they can be diminished, it is our solemn duty to labor towards that end. We shall do it, and shall do it thoroughly, systematically, and perseveringly. We have declared regular war against this enormous curse upon the city’s prosperity, and shall fight it out to the end. If our cotemporaries join us, well ; if they do not, our determination remains the same. Of measuring the extent of the evil there has been enough ; of idle wonderment and vain lamentation there has been enough ;

of sedate moralizing and fretful remonstrance there has been enough, quite enough. The time has come for action. It will no longer answer to stand still and gaze at the consequences, for every hour is adding to their volume and intensity. The causes and sources must be hunted up, cost what effort it may, and the needed corrective be applied. There is a growing sense of the necessity of this, and, so far as lies in us, we shall aid in giving it expression, strength and efficient direction. We pledge ourselves to do our part of the work with a will and a purpose.

“Capitalists, men of public spirit who have wealth at your command, will you hear us for our common cause? We come to-day on a matter of pure business. Listen and judge.”

To snatch the young from destruction by placing them in schools and subjecting them to moral training, is obviously the best of all modes to provide against the threatened evils of the future; but there is also a work to be done for the immense class already fallen. For the female part of this unhappy multitude we must plead as for the wretchedest of the wretched—the most helpless among the helpless. We repeat that mere weakness of purpose is often sufficient to prevent their recovery, and

that our plan deserves its recognized place among preventive measures. *We prevent re-commitments*; we can prove that we have prevented them in numerous cases, after women had become fairly denizens of our prisons in consequence of successive re-commitments. We can point to women now dwelling with their families in peace, who date their emancipation from the *habit* of going to prison, from the day of their acceptance of our care and instruction. To prevent re-commitment is the business of our Institution; and if the city felt the importance of an effort, we should not need to importune the public for funds, which the authorities would see it their interest to furnish.

Our effort labors under the disadvantage of being distasteful in its aspect. It is not long since we heard a lady of no little benevolence say—"There are two classes that I *cannot* have anything to do with—lunatics and prisoners; I have an invincible disgust to them." And this feeling is often present when it is not so frankly avowed.

While minor ills, for such we must consider any physical deprivation, and any suffering unconnected with moral degradation, command the attention and enlist the generous and brotherly sympathy of our citizens, the condition of those who are suffering, body and soul, under

the consequences of ignorance and depravity, has failed in acquiring its rightful place in the long list of Christian benevolences. We do not say that it has secured *no* place. We gratefully acknowledge the liberality of the few; and we feel that where we have succeeded in obtaining a hearing, we have met with such responses as we could desire; but our hearts sink when we are forced to contrast the magnitude of the work we have undertaken with the measure of means with which the public at large have as yet been induced to entrust us. We are at no loss to account for this comparative indifference. We perceive it to be perfectly natural. Lack of the senses necessary for the business and enjoyment of common life, appeals at once and unanswerably to every human creature not utterly separated by selfishness from his kind. Widowhood and orphanage touch all hearts that have ever known the sweetness of family affection. No arguments are needed when we would enlist the general sympathy in the condition of sufferers by unmerited misfortune. Nature speaks for us, and forestalls our petitions. A man hardly *dares* refuse of his superfluity to sustain and console and instruct those whom Providence has thus directly thrown upon the sympathies of their fellow creatures.

But it is far otherwise with the unhappy objects of our

care. They are in possession of the bodily senses they have abused, and retain, nominally at least, the family ties they have neglected or disgraced. They do not belong to the class of idiots, nor are they incapacitated from many kinds of occupation by means of which the necessities and even comforts of life are obtained. They seem to be what they are, and to stand where they stand, by their own perverse choice; and the first and most natural thought is to let them abide by that choice. They are supposed to have made a deliberate election of "the pleasures of sin for a season," rather than that condition of plenty and credit, which is the reward of industry, sobriety and good citizenship; whilst the spontaneous notion of justice which springs in all our bosoms, and which we apply so conscientiously to all sins but our own, decrees them outlawry at once, thus purchasing the right to dismiss the case and rid the mind of a painful subject.

But has there in truth, been any such deliberate choice—any such insane election? Our experience, which we have now a title to urge, has shown us conclusively that in nine cases out of ten, no choice was ever made, for none was offered. Hereditary tendencies have their share; evil associations theirs. Temptations subtly planned by the old in crime; lack of any kindly aid after the

first offence ; the daily example of vicious companions ; the cruel desertion of those who should protect ; the hard trials of poverty, harder for women than for the stronger and bolder sex ; the passion for drink, seldom missing in those who are otherwise depraved, and often itself the cause of degradation ; these are a few of the causes by which the women who have come under our care are brought to the wretched point at which we take them up. When we inquire as to the beginning of their downward career, it is rarely that they can fix upon any particular period in memory as the time when they cut themselves off from decent fellowship, and felt that they had become the antagonists of society. It is true that they sometimes date from seduction, and sometimes from the contamination of a new acquaintance, old in vice ; but ordinarily we cannot but perceive that from the very outset they have lacked the usual safeguards. Hedged in and guarded on every side as the happier classes of God's weak and erring children are, it is hard for them to appreciate the condition of those who from infancy have lived with companions, perhaps nearest relations, in whose mouths blasphemy is familiar, and with whom pleasure means vice. We are scarcely conscious of half the influences which conspire to keep our feet from wandering far from the path of safety ; yet all these

prove ineffectual to resist the seducing power of evil. How, then, can we be pitiless toward the transgressions of the untaught, the unwarned, the neglected ?

But if their present state were the result of fatal choice, would they not, to the Christian, be more the objects of pity, of effort, prayer, sacrifice, than they are ? Those who say that they "have need of nothing," yet all the while are "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked," demand our deepest sympathy. What is physical blindness to that darkness of soul to which evil seems like good, and all moral colors confounded in black confusion and despair ? What deafness is like that of the heart, wilfully shut against every virtuous suggestion ? What widowhood so desolate as hers who has forfeited and contemned all the sweet and saving charities of home ? What orphanage so deep and bitter as that which renounces the fatherhood of God ? If the ordinary woes of humanity move our hearts and force us to feel and own the tie of brotherhood, surely the deeper ills of the soul, aggravated, as is meet, with personal suffering and debasement, should not fail to do at least as much. We ought to feel, at least, as much pity for sin, which is an evil in which we all partake, as for those misfortunes whose pressure we have never felt. We *know* how easy it is to sin ; shall we utterly condemn and consign to

social death, any who shall have fallen below a certain mark, the position of which is determined by ourselves?

“ But there is something so disgusting in the idea of meddling with convicts, and above all with *female* convicts !” We know it, but we are willing to undertake the personal part of the work. Many years’ practice has acquainted us with the nature of it, and taught us that with all its trials it has rich rewards. All we ask is *means*, means to work advantageously, to spread wide the benefits of our institution, which may be considered a pioneer in its path, and to show the world by our success what it ought to do for those who have suffered the full earthly penalty of crime. Prison officials in London and Paris, and those who have given the fullest attention to the case and condition of the prisoner, both before and after his discharge, say to our members, that *without an institution like ours, all that can be done for the prisoner during his incarceration is useless*. M. Panisse, the intelligent and benevolent governor of the great female prison of St. Lazare, in Paris, spoke to one of our members of a home for the discharged female convict, as *a necessary adjunct or complement of prison discipline, a provision against re-commitment*, which public authority ought not to abandon to private benevolence, since it is demanded by the plainest dictate of expediency.

Out of the multitude of women who go through all the degrees of crime in our prisons and penitentiaries, those who might be induced to reform are not to be counted by scores but by hundreds. Every thing we have done has served to show us how much more we might do, if we had larger means of usefulness, and to deepen our regret that our facilities are so limited.

A home, in the widest sense of that benignant word, is the very heart of the undertaking in behalf of female convicts. Household influences, including those of industry, order, self-restraint, temperance, kindness and religion, are the anchors of our hope. These require space, utensils, suitable furniture, opportunities for classification and separation ; in short, many things which are not to be attained without the possession of a large and well organized establishment. The first step toward this is an appropriate building, planned with express reference to our needs, and affording the means of carrying out our design to the best advantage. Thus far we have been confined within the walls of an ordinary three-story house, denied the use of many of the conveniences by the aid of which labor is now so greatly forwarded, and obliged to crowd our inmates in a way very unfavorable to the best operation of our plans, rather than turn from our doors one sinner that would, fain repent.

PUBLIC DUTY.

THOUGH to give timely warning and deter
Is one great aim of penalty, extend
Thy mental vision further and ascend
Far higher, else full surely shalt thou err.
What is a state? The wise behold in her
A creature born of time, that keeps one eye
Fixed on the statutes of Eternity,
To which her judgments reverently defer.
Speaking through Law's dispassionate voice, the state
Endues her conscience with external life
And being, to preclude or quell the strife
Of individual will, to elevate
The grovelling mind, the erring to recall,
And fortify the moral sense of all.

WORDSWORTH.



"ENCOURAGING CRIME."

When, with a glance, the eternal Judge shall sever
Earth's evil spirits from the pure and bright,
And say to those, ' Depart from me forever !'
To these, ' Come dwell with me in endless light !'
When each and all in silence take their way,
Who, mighty God ! O who shall bear that day ?

SOME benevolent people look upon ours as a romantic enterprise. Having themselves come to the conclusion that a woman who has submitted to the degradation of imprisonment is incurable, it is hard for them to sympathise with those who think otherwise. Others look at the immensity of the work, and shake their heads at our attempt as visionary, because it is so puny in comparison with what is needed. There are those again, who disapprove of any attempt to benefit the female prisoner, on the strange ground that we are offering a premium on

crime! “Would you,” say they, “offer an inducement to the commission of offences against the laws, by opening your doors only to those who have qualified themselves to take advantage of your assistance by becoming inmates of a prison?” Still another class object to any course which shall make the prison less dreaded; on the supposition that such interference has the effect at once of lessening the terrors of the law, and of mitigating the just punishment of crime.


Without entering into elaborate disquisitions, our experience, our hopes, the zeal we feel in the work we have undertaken, and our confidence in the substantial benevolence of these objectors, prompt us to offer in few words an answer to each class. To those who call us romantic, we must first be allowed to say that few benevolent enterprises are begun in this selfish world without a little romance; and it is because women are more liberally endowed with what passes under this name, that they originate so many of the charitable efforts of the day, and not only originate them, but keep them up, and carry them through triumphantly, by no little personal sacrifice. As to the romance of this special effort, the experience of years enables us to show that it is at least founded upon reality; since we are able to point to scores of cases, to speak moderately, where

success has crowned our endeavors to reform the female convict. We refer this class of objectors to our annual reports, where lists of cases, given with scrupulous caution against over statement, will show the ground of our hope for the future.

To those who look upon the greatness of the work as a reason for not undertaking it, we can but say, give us means commensurate, and we will engage, by the blessing of God, and with the co-operation of our fellow citizens, so to reduce this mountain of difficulty, that the least aspiring and least hopeful philanthropist shall be able to look over it, and encouraged to attempt its entire reduction. The intelligent deputy-governor of Newgate told one of our number that there was nothing that the city of London so much needed as an institution like ours, begging at the same time for such statistics and accounts of our undertaking and our success, as should afford aid to those who were disposed to attempt something of the same kind for that overgrown capital. The only institution of this nature in England at present, as far as we have been able to learn, is one formed by private benevolence, *female* benevolence, at Shepherd's Bush, near London. Miss Burdett Coutts, whose immense wealth enables her to gratify her desire to do good, without the necessity of appealing to the public for aid, has the honor

of being the pioneer, so far as England is concerned, in the attempt to reform the female convict after her discharge. Even the seemingly hopeless immensity of London has not deterred her from making a beginning in a work so obviously wise and kind. May her enterprise be blest, and may its success inspire others !

We come now to the idea that, by aiding only those who have been imprisoned, we are offering inducements to the commission of crime. If we had not heard this objection seriously urged by those whom we were bound to respect, we could hardly have believed it would have suggested itself to any reader of the New Testament ; but perhaps there are those who interpret the divine command (to visit the prisoner) so literally, that they consider the duty at an end as soon as the prisoner is discharged, even though he be then in a position where, without efficient and peculiar aid, he must return to crime or die of starvation ! We cannot consider him in the light of an ordinary claimant upon charity, and content ourselves with supplying his present need. Without employment, he must steal or counterfeit again ; without reformation, he will inevitably return to the haunts of ruin, for nobody will employ or trust him unless some responsibility intervenes, such as it is the object of the Prison Association to offer. Further than



this : each benevolent society must place limits upon its operations. The Asylum for the Blind will not receive the Deaf and Dumb, though they may be equally unfortunate. The Orphan House does not open its doors to the disabled sailor. The remark, which has been made with regard to the special object of our efforts, and the offers of our Home, apply equally well to any other charity, and would equally put an end to all charity. According to these ingenious objectors, every institution should admit all classes of unfortunates ; and all system and order, all apportionment of means, all provision for the infinitely various tastes and turns of mind of those who undertake the care of the unfortunate, would be abolished and rendered useless. The object and effect of charitable institutions is to meliorate the woes that already exist ; to take up the unfortunate or degraded classes of society, and endeavor to aid them and to make them better ; not to *create* classes who shall be fit recipients of their beneficence. We might challenge any one to show that a single individual had ever committed a crime in order to secure aid from the Prison Association. The class with which we have to do are not so fond of the restraints of order and good morals as to lay plans for enjoying our protection. Those who have no desire to reform do not come to us ; and those whose desire to reform melts away

before temptation, are always in great haste to get rid of us. Those who remain, are always those who are willing to try, at least.

As to the notion that to assist the discharged convict to return to the paths of virtue, is to interfere with the ends of justice, we shall consider this a valid objection when the law adds to its sentence of imprisonment a further penalty of eternal contempt and distrust, with their concomitants of starvation, misery, new crime, and continual re-commitment. We contend, and can prove, that by aiding the discharged convict in obtaining employment, and confirming his resolution of amendment, we are abetting the ends of justice, and saving the country the expense of a continued prison residence.


CHARACTER OF THE WORK.

God seeth thee, who sees the prosperous proud
Into the sunshine of their joy go forth ;
God marks thee, weak one, in the human crowd,
And judgeth all thy grief, as all their mirth.
Bird with the broken wing that trails on earth !
His angels watch thee, if none watch beside,
Or our belief is vain in Christ the Crucified !

MRS. NORTON.

WE have often had occasion to call attention to the letters received from our former inmates ; to the ability displayed in them, to their excellent tone of expression, and to the evidence they afford as to the moral tendency of the Home. No candid mind but will acknowledge, that in sensibility to kindness, in discernment as to right and wrong, in acknowledgment of the highest standard of duty, and in many cases, in generosity of sentiment,

these poor patients of ours compare not unfavorably with more fortunate sisters of the human family. That the germs of these good things were yet existing in their minds when they came under our care, even after lives of dreadful error, we know, for our observation has taught us that in no heart are they entirely stifled ; but that the warm atmosphere of kindness, the nourishment of good habits, and the fostering power of religious instruction, called them into active life, it is our happiness to believe. To those friends who have faith and love enough to make trial of our inmates in their families, we are able to recommend them with confidence, since the very fact of a willingness to remain with us during a long period of discipline and probation, submitting to our strict rules, performing regular labor with close confinement—for no inmate goes beyond our doors without leave—and showing by docility and obedience the sincerity of their desire to reform, gives the best possible ground for the conclusion as to future good behaviour. We are able to assure those who entertained fears lest by providing a home for the discharged female convict we were offering a premium on crime, that from the character of our institution it is no more likely that an unworthy person would commit an offence for the sake of obtaining admission to it, than that another should put out his own



eyes in order to secure a comfortable shelter at the Asylum for the Blind. Experience has proved that the Home is quite as undesirable a place to bad subjects, as they can possibly be unwelcome to it; and that hardly any surer pledge of a desire to reform need be asked than a quiet and orderly residence of some months, or even weeks, within its walls. The peculiar power and value of the domestic discipline of the Home, is the opportunity it affords for reforming not only the outward conduct, but the sentiments, which in the familiarity of daily intercourse come under frequent discussion. Many are led into bad courses by early example and instruction, so that the very springs of action need purification. Towards this end are the efforts of our matrons directed, and to diffuse a pure and healthy moral influence is their constant effort; to which many of the ladies who give large portions of their time and attention to the Home, lend their devoted co-operation. Advice and consolation, reproof and warning, mingle with the cares and labors of the day. It is not considered enough that an inmate performs her stipulated task, or refrains from disturbing those about her. Her mind is probed, her past life examined, her ideas of the future called forth by kindly questionings. If vicious thoughts still have the ascendancy, they are sure to betray themselves to the experi-

enced eye of a sympathizing friend, and here opens the opportunity for dealing with the sources of action. Many of the cases which we are able to present, show the utility of this mode of moral trial, and the power which woman exercises over woman when she can conquer her repugnance to the contact of degradation, so far as to approach the most unhappy of her sex in the character of a Christian sister.

And here we must take the liberty to urge upon those who have never been induced to engage in this or any similar enterprise for the restoration of the fallen, the solemn fact that whatever we are able to do, in the right spirit, for the hapless subjects of our care, is done, in literal truth, for ourselves; that we actually learn as much from them as they learn from us; that the discipline to which we subject them teaches us many a lesson of self-command; that in attempting to show them the beauty of humility, the safety of truth, and the saving power of repentance, we are brought to see our own dependence upon God, and the necessity of his help in the simplest of these efforts. In reading these souls, often truly laid bare before us under the influence of helplessness and despair, we learn human nature in a way and to a degree which opens to us the recesses of our own hearts, and forces us to recognize the conse-


quences which ensue from carrying out, to their extremes, the very faults which in our smoother lives look like trifling offences. It is the habit of the careless world to award praise or blame too much according to circumstances; giving disproportioned credit for virtues which cost no effort or sacrifice, and condemning, with a no less unjust severity, transgressions which have all the apology of ignorance, evil nurture and temptation. But without insisting on the painful thought that under certain imaginable circumstances we might have been no better than the wretch we despise, we may at least soften our indignation by the reflection that situated as favorably as we, he might have passed through life with as little reproach. Who knows what equality God may discern between us? We have reason to know that even in the lowest of his creatures he still sees something worthy of his care and love. But in our pride of fancied virtue, we are apt to forget this. The dreadful outward change which a life abandoned to sin and shame produces, is such as to make us hardly willing to own that our own nature is still distinguishable in the criminal; but the nearness and candor of personal intercourse force us to perceive and acknowledge, that in the poor victim of weakness or passion we must submit to own the resemblance of kindred. He is still rational, though he may

insanely have given the reins to evil desires ; he has not lost the knowledge of right and wrong, though his whole life may seem to have forgotten the distinction between them ; he is still subject to tender affections, though he may have outraged all their dictates ; he even respects goodness, though his faith in the sincerity of those who profess it is much shaken by the consciousness of his own misdoing. In short, we are obliged to own that the faults of these degraded ones are our own, carried out to their legitimate consequences ; and that of what we consider our superior virtues, they are often found to retain at least the seeds, of a number and amount which could hardly be expected under the circumstances. To attempt to benefit them is therefore a severe but most healthful school for our own hearts ; and if we do them good, we are more than repaid by the discipline to which our own characters are subjected in the process. If this view of the work should possess little attraction for some minds, we are able to add that the gratitude, the docility, the improvement of our patients afford in themselves a rich reward. Not unfrequently is the kind word met with an irrepressible tear, the encouraging smile with a quick blush of animated hope, the gentle reproof or caution with a humble confession of wrong, and a ready and sincere promise of amendment. The hard-seeming heart

proves itself soft, and the rude tone sinks into mildness ; the defiant eye quails before the influence of a true sympathy and interest ; affection is called forth on both sides, and if the unfortunate feel that they owe all to us, we on our part realize that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

In making this general statement of encouraging circumstances, we would, however, by no means be understood to represent our success as universal, or the result of our system as being invariably such as we could wish. Many a cruel disappointment shadows the joy we are allowed to feel over each "sinner that repenteth." In some of our patients, the work of destruction has been too radical for our imperfect treatment. Evil habit has become strong as death, making even the sincerest resolutions of amendment utterly impotent. New-born virtue falls before the first touch of temptation, and darkness of spirit is too apt to replace the gleams of goodness which for a while have cheered and encouraged us. But, by the strictest reckoning, those who fall away after having enjoyed the full benefit of the institution, are few, in comparison to those who show good fruits ; and, as the main result is quite sufficient to sustain the courage of those who perform the labor, we hope it will also suffice to inspire the liberality of our benefactors.

As to the general circumstances and success of the Home, we are happy to be able to say they are prosperous and encouraging. Owing to various accidental causes which it is not necessary here to particularize, we have been obliged, in the course of the past years, to make some changes in its arrangement, and at certain periods our matrons have not been retained with sufficient permanence to ensure perfect regularity in our statistic record. But in no case has the interest of our establishment suffered from the alterations we found it desirable to make. No interruption has occurred in the labor and instruction of our inmates. The cholera came among us, but there was no panic at the Home. Two of our number were sent to the cholera hospital, where one died and the other was retained as nurse. Another was employed at the house of one of our citizens, as nurse to a dying woman, and returned with a certificate of her kindness and efficiency, and a liberal compensation for her services. At some periods the demand for domestics from the Home has been so urgent that the usual amount of work there was lessened; but at other times the inmates have contributed largely toward their own support, by sewing and washing. Most of those for whom places have been found, whether in private families, or in factories in the country, have given



satisfaction to their employers, and taken pains to justify the character that had been given of them. From this class of patients we receive letters of the warmest gratitude, and not unfrequently other testimonials of regard, and little tokens of affection for the institution and the inmates left behind. Of one who had passed the greater part of seven years on Blackwell's Island, her employer, after several months' trial, writes thus : " A. B. wishes me to say to you that she is very well satisfied with her place, and desires to be remembered to you and Miss Foster. C. D. expresses the same wish. They are both doing well. A. B. has proved, in some respects, a valuable servant. I never had in my family a more even-tempered and obliging woman. In every thing but cooking, she has done well for us ; and I shall retain her as long as I can for the sake of her good qualities." Three inmates were sent to a factory in Massachusetts. They write : " We earn from three to five dollars a week, and pay one dollar and a half for board. My dear Mrs. —, we do not yet know how to show our gratitude to you. * * J. and E. join me in the kindest love to you." Six were sent to a factory in this State, after careful inquiry into the character of the proprietor and the treatment to be expected, and we hear good accounts of them. One inmate who had inhabited the City Prison

ten months, has paid from her earnings *thirty dollars* of borrowed money, and her whole appearance is in direct contrast with the tenor of her past life. An inmate who had been in a place of domestic service several months, became so *Home-sick* that her employers allowed her to return and visit her old friends and companions at the institution. She passed one week at the Home, and at the expiration of the time went back to her place, contented and happy, having left the house but once, and that to make a few purchases, accompanied by a member of the committee.

All our House Reports speak of the order, industry, and kind feeling which prevails at the Home. It is evidently a school of the best affections; its mild discipline commends itself so to the reason and conscience of the inmates, that irritation seldom occurs, and the personal and minute attention bestowed by our matrons and by the members of the committee, secures the treatment best suited to each particular case. We wish it were allowable to particularize those members whose labors of love have been especially abundant, "in season and out of season," through all difficulties and discouragements; but since it may not be, we will only say, that in this case as in many others, the *labor falls on a few*, comparatively; and the least others can do, is to

strengthen their hands, and supply them with the requisite means for carrying into effect their excellent plans—which is all they ask. The Home is at all times open to the inspection of visitors, and no valuable suggestion from any quarter is unwelcome. We solicit visits, as the very best mode of awakening an interest in our object. One hour in the work-room is generally enough to convert the most skeptical. To see those who were once the vilest of the vile—at home only in riot, and scorning all order and decency—sitting “clothed and in their right mind;” clean, docile, industrious, quiet, respectful—pleads better than the eloquence of Demosthenes in favor of the rationality of our attempt. Our Sunday services are attended regularly, and with great interest. A city missionary officiates in the morning, and some kind religious friend in the evening. A Bible class, or some suitable reading, occupies the afternoon; and we have good reason to believe that none of these Sabbath exercises are without good results on the character of our inmates, who would feel themselves almost injured if they were omitted. We would take this opportunity to return our grateful acknowledgments to the kind Christian friends who have with constancy and diligence conducted these exercises for us.

The direct and immediate effect of the religious


services invariably performed at the Home on the Sabbath, is not always as obvious as we could desire, although some of the women evince, occasionally, marks of sensibility to religious influence. The time of their stay at the Home is hardly long enough to allow us to expect any great improvement in this respect, when we consider that the whole current of their lives has run counter to the new set of ideas and feelings which it is the object of preaching to implant and cultivate. It is difficult to engraft a spirit of humility on a habit of defiance; a sentiment of reverence to God, upon a mind whose undisciplined impulses have never owned the salutary control of respect for any one. Yet we have leave to hope that even here something is accomplished, though the implanting be but as a grain of mustard seed. We trust that, in some cases at least, the word does not return void, but accomplishes that whereto it was sent. We are happy to believe that those whose benevolence prompts them to offer religious services at the Home are peculiarly fitted for the work, both by human sympathy and godly zeal, and by a power of judicious adaptation of instruction to the rude and dark minds for which it is intended.

Wholly incapable of prolonged attention, the women are yet susceptible of much good from short, easy, and

affectionate discourses ; and though too generally unused to any attempt to lift up the heart in prayer, it is certain that they are not incapable of joining in some degree in the devotion of others, offered in simplicity and earnestness. This portion of the exercises of the Home is conducted by City Missionaries ; to whom, and to all friends who kindly lend their aid in the good work of religious instruction among us, we are glad of this opportunity to express our gratitude. Without such assistance, an important feature of our effort to reclaim the lost would be wanting ; and we would tender our especial acknowledgments to those who have held Bible-class at the Home regularly, much to the satisfaction, and, we have reason to hope, improvement of the inmates.

In closing this brief and imperfect account of the doings of the past, we beg to be allowed a few words as to the future. If we have been able to communicate in this account even a portion of the conviction which is firmly established in our own minds, of the need of such an institution as the Home, and the possibilities of good to be accomplished by it, we may hope that little urgency is necessary in asking for the undertaking the hearty support of the friends of humanity. We have shown that the aid which suffices for the male convict on his return to society is not sufficient for the female ; that her

condition is far more needy and desolate in every respect ; in short, that a Home, with female care and sympathy, must be the beginning of her new life. On the expense involved in maintaining such an asylum, we need not enlarge. It is most obvious that without generous support from the public, it is vain for a few individuals to undertake the work. We may, however, be allowed to assure those who do lend us their aid, that all that economy can accomplish has been done, and will continue to be done, at the Home. From the outset to the present moment, we have been making continual improvement in this respect, and it is the opinion of those who have examined our plans and their operations, that it would hardly be possible to make the same amount of funds equally efficient in any other way. What we now require in particular is such a provision of means as would enable us to increase the efficiency of our work-department ; to give such instruction to our inmates as will fit them more and more to remunerate the institution by their labor, while they are preparing themselves for earning their own living honestly and respectably after they leave us ; we ask from the public such a contribution to our funds as will give us leave to be as useful as we can—as useful as experience has convinced us we may be. Our plans are so laid that a judicious expendi-



ture now will be sure to make large returns in future. The labor performed by our inmates not only contributes to their reformation, but in no inconsiderable degree lightens the expenses of their support. We desire further facilities to this end, and we venture to promise, in case they are afforded us, to show, in the accounts of our future expenditure, a proportionate increase in the productiveness of our establishment. May God incline the hearts of those to whom he has intrusted the good things of this world, to give liberally of their abundance to reclaim and restore those who must otherwise be left to perish in degradation and despair !

CASES REPORTED.

THERE are many cases of exceeding interest that might be narrated, but our present limits permit the insertion of only a few. One person was an inmate of the Home more than a year, lived in the family of a clergyman one year, returned to the Home, and, in a short time, went to learn a trade. She fulfilled her engagement of six months' service, when her instructor reported her as one of the best hands she ever had, and competent to work for any body. She followed her trade a short time, when she married a seafaring man, and is now making preparations for housekeeping in the spring.

J. M'C. has lived with an excellent family in this city for two years past ; she is a quiet, orderly person, much esteemed in the family, and exceedingly neat and capable.

M. M. was brought to the Home by a member of the Committee, who found her in the street in great distress, she having arrived in the city a few days previous, and being in search of her relations. M. S. was untiring in her efforts to assist her, to the great joy of both parties. She left the Home after expressing, in the strongest terms, her gratitude for favors received.

B. S., from Blackwell's Island, has been one of our most hopeless cases. She was several times committed to the Island, and finally became an inmate of the Home, where she remained several months, then went to a place in Flushing. After six months she returned to us again, when a home was secured to her in New York ; where she conducted herself well for ten months, but her health being delicate, she was advised to take a place in the country, in the family of a clergyman. She has done remarkably well ; the family are much attached to her, and she to them, and they have prevailed upon her to go to Michigan, where they reside.

W. E., a native of England, 28 years of age, made application to be received into the Home. She was miserably clad, and in a state of desperation went to the Tombs and asked to be committed six months, first sending her only child to Randall's Island. At the

expiration of her sentence, she made application and was received at the Home, and in a week was sent to a place in Connecticut, where she is considered invaluable.

L. C., who has now been in a service place several months, with good report of her conduct, was notorious, even among the bad, and had been several times in the Penitentiary. Her employers speak favorably of her conduct while with them—a space of time long enough to allow a hope that her reform may be permanent, though we should be far from considering a single relapse, or even more, proof against the sincerity of the present endeavor. It is too much to expect that the power of habit can be broken at once and without fail, even by the best resolutions.

S. C. was considered a hopeless case ; but after she had been several months at the Home—too bad to be recommended to a place, yet showing occasionally such encouraging signs that we did not dare to reject her—she began to improve so evidently that the records of the House speak of it as an “astonishing change.” From having been very violent in her temper, she became, under the influence of kind words and good offices, docile and pleasant. The religious exercises of the Home exerted an influence over her, and the Chaplain at Blackwell’s Island expressed his surprise that he had not

seen her there *for more than a year*—a remarkable thing in his experience.

C. D. has been under our care for two years and a half, and is now one of those on whose faithfulness, industry and good example we rely. During that time she has lived eight months in one place, five in another, and four in another, leaving for sufficient reasons, and returning to the Home. It must be confessed that during that time she has three times been betrayed into her old habits of intoxication, and when such influences get the better of her, we are almost ready to conclude, from the temporary return of the old dispositions, that no advance has been made. But this is the suggestion of our fears; in truth, if we had but redeemed these *two and a half years* from the wreck of a life, we ought to feel that we have more than the reward of our patience; and we certainly have leave to hope that in time, good habits will exert their full power in driving out bad ones. This woman is at the present time living respectably and taking in sewing.

M. D. was brought up from her earliest years in infamy. Her mother was the instrument of her destruction, and the great object of the girl was to break loose from this unnatural parent. In this she has at last succeeded, and is now an industrious and remarkably

orderly subject of the Home, often repeating her views of what the institution has done for her.

H. G., a young girl of prepossessing appearance and good manners, but who had been the subject of evil influences, resided at the Home one month, behaved well, was recommended to a place, and has ever since remained in it, to the great satisfaction of her employers. The only supposable fate of a girl of this description, without the aid of such an institution as the Home, would have been to swell the tide of infamy in our streets, beyond the reach of human help or warning.

M. M. was one of those who on their first reception seem hardly human. The whole tenor of their lives, every sentiment of their hearts, the very depths of their souls, have become brutalized by vice, ignorance, and hard usage. Old in prisons, they hardly count it a disgrace to be inmates there. Yet even this creature has improved under the influences brought to bear upon her, until "It is a common observation in the house," says our good matron, "how much Mary has improved"—the inmates themselves thus acting as moral judges of one another. Cases like this one may not make much impression in the telling, but they cheer and encourage the hearts of those engaged, more than it is possible to express.

H. S., once an inmate of the Home after a sojourn at the Penitentiary, has now been fifteen months in a service-place, where the family consider her invaluable. She says the Home was the saving of her.

M. C. was in the Home for several months, conducting herself with the utmost propriety ; was then sent to a place, in which she remained just one year. At the expiration of that time she was invited home by her husband, who had become convinced of her reformation from the intemperate habits which alone brought her to a prison. Her employers regretted parting with her, and gave her an excellent character.

C. M. came to us in February, remained three months, during which time she was a most docile and worthy subject of our regulations. She has now been six months in a place, and gives great satisfaction.

S. G. was one year at Sing-Sing ; was at the Home a few weeks ; then went to a service-place, and behaved so well that her friends consented to receive her home again. Since that time she has more than once attended the Sunday evening service at the Home.

J. D., from the Tombs, lived out six months, then went to learn a trade, and has remained ever since in the same place, with a good character.

M. P., forty years of age, came from Blackwell's

Island, remained at the Home six months ; but has now been nearly six months in a place on Long Island, from whence we have frequent good accounts of her, as an excellent servant.

E. C. was at the Home four months—then got a situation in the country where she has done well, and as a testimony of her gratitude to the Home, has sent occasionally a present of butter of her own make.

E. Q., who came to us some time since, was a most miserable creature in every way, incapable of helping herself, struggling against bad habits, or making any effectual attempt to earn a living. She learned after a while to do general housework, and is now at service in Philadelphia, doing well.

C. S., from Sing-Sing, where she had been several years, soon after her discharge was admitted into the Home, where she remained till we became satisfied that she had formed a determination to live an honest, virtuous life, when a suitable situation was procured for her. The following is an extract of a letter from the lady in whose service she now is :

———, May 17th, 1848.

“C. S. is with me, and is a good faithful girl. She has the entire management of my domestic affairs, and

does all the work for us in the family. She has united with the Methodist Church since she came here, and is treated with marked attention by its members. She is known as my house-keeper, and no one suspects the furnace through which she has passed."

As a specimen of the circumstances and habits by means of which our prisons and asylums are peopled, take the following case, written down by one of our Board, from the lips of the young woman herself :

Margaret L.,—nineteen years old—born in Lower Canada—brought up by a father of bad character, who was very severe with her. Her parents taught her to fight—would hold a handkerchief between her and another girl, and encourage them to beat and bruise each other over it. She worked in the field, and "did as much work as three boys," as her father said—and in time became very strong. When she was fourteen, her father advised her to go and get her living without work—instructing her at the same time how she might do so. This she refused, and left home, working out as a servant. In C—— (somewhere near or on the Canada Line) she met with a girl who dared her to fight, saying she could beat her. Seizing an opportunity, Margaret threw this girl down and beat her dreadfully, until taken off by the bystanders, after which the girl, much bruised, was

carried home, and Margaret tried and sentenced to jail for two weeks. While there, she made acquaintance with five men who were also in jail waiting to be sent to Clinton Prison. They were confined in an apartment directly below Margaret, and she conversed with them through a stove-pipe. Feeling very sorry for them, she was persuaded to assist them to escape, which she accomplished by dislodging a large stone—a feat requiring more than masculine strength. She did not herself accompany them, as she had but a few days to stay;—but a boy who was also confined in the jail, being angry because she would not allow him to go with them, he having but a week or two to stay, betrayed her, and she was tried and condemned to the State Prison for two years. Behaves very well, though of very high temper, and somewhat given to mischief in a small way. Has a good deal of humor and a large share of sensibility, and persists in thinking the helping of five poor fellows “out of such trouble,” a praiseworthy deed.


The following is a chapter from the experience of Father Hopper, whose whole time and heart were devoted to reclaiming the fallen :

“ *Eighth Month, 13th, 1847.*

“ J. ———, a native of this State, was convicted of

perjury in one of our western counties, in May, 1842, and sentenced to Sing-Sing for fourteen years. She was confined in ——— jail about two years *before conviction*, the jury not being able to agree on the first trial. She had been in Sing-Sing but a short time, before it became evident that her mind was giving way under the weight of her sufferings. I visited Sing-Sing after she had been there a year or eighteen months, and my attention was called to her. She was then much depressed, and her mind seemed to be fast sinking into a state of listless melancholy. This increased upon her, until it broke out in violent derangement, so that they could no longer, with any propriety, keep her in prison; and about eighteen months ago she was removed to the Lunatic Asylum at Bloomingdale. After she had been there several months I went to see her, and I took my wife and Lydia Maria Child with me. She expressed much gratification with the visit. We took her a walk through the yard and garden, and while sitting in the shade, under some trees, one of the company remarked what a pleasant place it was. She looked around and replied, ‘Yes, it is a very pleasant place, but chains are chains, if they are made of gold, and mine grow heavier every day I wear them.’ After this visit she seemed for a short time to be much worse—she used vulgar and profane language, and tore

up her blanket and made pantaloons of it. It was found difficult to keep her in her room: she several times picked the lock of the door and escaped, but was soon re-captured and returned to her old quarters. Some weeks afterwards I made her another visit, and found her attired in her new costume. As soon as she saw me, she made an effort to get out of my sight, as she did not wish me to see her with her pantaloons on; but I called her, and she came to me. I took her kindly by the hand, and said, 'J., what does all this mean?' She replied, 'It is military; I am an officer of state.' I then told her that if she had been decently clad, I would have taken her a walking, but I would not go with her in that condition. She very earnestly entreated me to take her a walking—said she could soon change her dress—that a walk in the fresh air would do her much good. She then changed her dress, and I walked over the premises for more than an hour with her. During this time she gave me an interesting history of her life, which had been very far from what it ought to have been, and on the retrospect she wept bitterly. She said that she thought she had not a friend in the world—that she was forgotten by every body. I informed her that I was her friend, and that she had many more. She seemed much more rational than when I first saw her. Soon after this visit



I wrote to her: the doctor told me that it had a good effect upon her. I visited her frequently, and generally took some of my family with me. She gradually improved, and about two months ago I brought her to the city, where she spent the day, and in the evening I returned her to the Asylum. Doctor E., the physician, told me several weeks afterwards, that she had conducted with the utmost propriety ever since, and that her coming to the city had been a great advantage to her. Finding that exercise in the open air, where new objects were presented, and the gloom of the Asylum hidden for a time from her view, did her good, I again brought her to the city on the 13th inst. She spent the day with us—was much pleased, and I returned her to her quarters in the evening. She was extremely gratified, and I think improved. She is a sensible, and I hope will yet make a worthy, respectable woman. Senator Clark of S——, told me when I was in Albany in the spring of 1846, that J. B. was not guilty of the crime of which she was convicted.

Eleventh Month, 1st, 1847.

“About the middle of ninth month last, I again brought her to the city and kept her at my house several days, having previously made known my intentions to

the District Attorney. During this time she manifested no symptoms of derangement—her mind appeared to be settled and calm. Believing that continuing longer in the Asylum would be of no benefit to her, and the physician being of the same opinion, I made application to the Governor on the sixteenth of last month, and he promptly granted her a pardon. But I did not communicate the information to her, till I had procured a suitable situation for her in the country. I soon succeeded to my satisfaction, and have found a family in Pennsylvania who are willing to take her, where she will receive all the sympathy and tenderness that her delicate condition may require.

“The thirtieth of last month I went to the Asylum and informed J. that she was pardoned. She wept, and for some time was unable to control her feelings—her joy was full. I never witnessed a more affecting, interesting scene. I had seen her, a young, comely-looking woman—possessing more than common good sense—driven by the severity of her sufferings, said to be unmerited, to the depths of despair—a raving maniac. By the skill and kind attention of the physician and of her friends, I now see her ‘sitting clothed and in her right mind.’ I had sympathized deeply with her in her sufferings, and I now partook largely in her joy. I shall keep her at my

house till I am prepared to take her to the place of her destination, which I expect will be in a few days.

“ Eleventh Month, 29th, 1847

“ J. B., not having fully recovered from the feeble state to which her sufferings had reduced her, I did not deem it prudent to send her alone and unprotected to the place I had procured for her in Pennsylvania, a distance of about one hundred and forty-eight miles ; I therefore went with her. This was the more necessary, as it afforded me an opportunity of explaining her case more fully than could conveniently be done by letter, a knowledge of which was essential to the proper treatment of it. I left her in the care of kind friends, and she appeared to be quite satisfied.


“ Twelfth Month, 24th, 1847.

“ The following is a copy of a letter received this day from J. B. It exhibits in vivid colors, the deep, heartfelt gratitude of one, who by the kindness of Providence, was raised from the very depths of misery and despair to comfort and respectability.”

“ ‘ C—— COUNTY, December 19th, 1847.

“ ‘ DEAR FRIEND :—I received your letter, and am happy to hear from you. I was at times very low

spirited, but after reading your letter I felt much better. I will assure you it was to me what a glass of cold water would be when fainting. I pore over it so much that I have got it by heart. You would wish to know something about my place, and how I liked it, and how the friends here like me. So far I believe we are all satisfied. My work is chamber and sewing, and now and then a little leg trot for exercise. The country here looks rather gloomy—rain plenty—rather juicy under foot—worse than in New York. I have done better than I expected to—well ever since I left New York. The country has a wonderful effect. I feel grateful to you for all the kindness, friendship and favors you have shown me; and now may God bless and reward you for it. Friend Hopper, you first saw me in prison and visited me—you followed me to the Asylum—you did not forsake me. What a change in circumstances! You, that has changed a bed of straw for one of down—may Heaven bless you—no tongue can express the gratitude I feel. Many are the hearts you have made glad; and my opinion is that they would say with me—God bless you! Suppose all you have dragged out of one place and another were to stand before you at once—I think you would have more than you could shake hands with in a month, and you would shake hands with them all.



“I close this. Please excuse my mistakes. Love to your wife and all your family, to Mr. and Mrs. Hopper, the second, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons and family all. Love to all inquiring friends. Please answer this on the receipt of it.

“ ‘Yours with respect,

“J. B——.’ ”

“ *Fifth Month, 25th, 1848.*

“J. —— is in a respectable family in Pennsylvania, where she is usefully employed. The friend with whom she lives says, ‘She is every thing I could wish.’ A few days ago I received a letter from Jane. The following is an extract from it:—‘Oh, frail woman—no steps can be recalled—it is all in the future to make amends for the past—how true it is that virtue has its reward and vice its punishment. I am now somewhat advanced in years, and know that the way of the transgressor is hard. If I had only a few years of my life to live over again, how different would I live. For the many blessings that Providence bestowed upon me, may I be grateful to the good giver of them. In all my troubles God raised me up a friend, and I believe he never forsakes me; so there is hope for me. Don’t be discouraged that you befriended me, for, with God’s blessing, you shall have no reason to repent it.’ ”

"Ninth Month, 2d, 1848.

"The following is an extract of a letter from a respectable friend in Philadelphia, dated the 24th ult. :

"'M. W., the person with whom J. lives, called to invite me to go out and see J., and Ann P. and I went and spent Sixth day afternoon there—on Seventh day she came in and staid till last eve, when she returned to M. W.'s. She seems in good spirits. It is gratifying to see the right spirit manifested, and a consciousness of the benefits she has received. She bade me say that she wished to make no change until she changed to heaven. Her parting words to me were, 'Christian, God speed thee.' I felt they bespoke an appreciation of the kindness shown her, and gratitude for it."

"First Month, 2d, 1850.

"J. — continues to conduct very satisfactorily. She is modest and discreet in her deportment—industrious in habits, and makes a very respectable appearance. As a mark of gratitude for the attention which at different times I have extended to her, she has sent me a pair of handsome gloves and a bandana handkerchief. Taking into consideration all the circumstances attending this case, this small present affords me much more gratifica-

tion than ten times the value, if received from any other person. She still lives in Pennsylvania.

"She is now employed in a large family, conducting with entire satisfaction, being an important member of it, in the capacity of principal assistant therein. Her economy and industry has enabled her to deposit eighty dollars in a Savings' Bank."

C. F., (the last case reported by Father Hopper,) when very young became the mother of an illegitimate child, which was still-born ; but the circumstances attending its birth were such as led to a suspicion that she had destroyed it. She was consequently arrested and cast into prison on a charge of infanticide. She remained in confinement several weeks, when the authorities became satisfied that she was innocent of the crime of which she was accused, and she was discharged without a trial.

Upon being set at liberty, she went immediately to her sister, a reputable married woman living in this city, but she refused to permit her to enter her dwelling. Such conduct from a sister was very disheartening, and she turned away sorrowing. C. was rather handsome, and those harpies who are always on the alert to seduce and destroy young women who may fall in their way, had their eyes upon C., and urgently solicited her to take up her abode with one of them, but their insidious allure-

ments were indignantly rejected. Having no asylum to which she could fly for protection, she returned to the Tombs, and asked the Warden to take her in until a suitable place could be procured. Here she was soon found by one of those kind-hearted women who often visit that abode of sorrow and misery. She took C. home, and employed her as a domestic. By her kind, faithful, correct conduct, she soon conciliated the respect and regard of the family. After remaining in this situation several years, she was addressed by a respectable industrious young man, whom she married, and they now live comfortably together. She often calls to see the family at whose hands she had received so much kindness, and manifests affection and gratitude therefor. A few weeks ago she called to see my family, and brought her son, a fine looking little fellow. His appearance bespoke the care of a prudent mother. It is gratifying to contemplate the history of this woman, who by the blessing of providence and the aid of the benevolent individual above mentioned, was raised from a very low state of degradation and misery, to respectability and comfort. (This young woman was for a long time a faithful and good nurse in the family of Mrs. Gibbons, esteemed and respected by every member of it.)

THE PILGRIM.

"And the bended bow and the voice passed on."

HERMANS.

WEARY, wayworn, sad, and faint,
Pouring out my mournful plaint,
Crying with a burdened soul,
"Jesus, save and make me whole!"—
Soon He heard my voice, and cried,
"Look on me,—the crucified!"

Once again my soul was dark ;
Hope was dying, spark by spark ;
Clouds of sorrow, fear, and sin,
Shrouded me their folds within.—
But a voice broke through the night,—
"Trust in me,—thy living light!"

Poverty with ruthless sway
Gained upon me day by day ;
Tremblingly I looked around ;
—Could no help for me be found ?
Lo, a voice,—"Fear not," it said,
"Feed on me,—thy living bread."

Sorrow came with rapid tread,—
Laid his hand upon my head ;—
Friends forsook and foes drew near,—
All my spirit shook with fear ;
Still the heavenly voice was nigh,—
“ Lean on me ;—*I* cannot die.”

And my heart grew still, for my foes were gone,—
And the hour of pain and the voice passed on.

C. A. BRIGGS.

SCHOOL REPORT OF THE PAST YEAR.

J. M., a young girl of twelve years, left for service in Vermont in May last. The family she is with give a most excellent account of her. When she came to the Home she could not read. She learned to read and write, to do sums in Addition, and also to say the Multiplication Table. She committed to memory twenty-three chapters from the Bible.

A. M., a German of twelve years of age, left for Vermont in June. She left in May, to live in this city with a Mrs. ——'s family. After a month her parents visited her, and found she had been badly treated by Mr. —— . If she had not been a virtuous child, her character would have been lost. When Mr. —— was called on, he did not deny any of the charges. Her parents took her away without his knowledge, and saved her from ruin, as it was Mr. ——'s intention to have left the city

with her the following week. The family she is with give a most excellent report of her.

Mary A. — left the first of May to live with Mrs. S., where she remained only until October, the work of the family being more than she could accomplish. She has since been living with Mr. R., who says he could not wish a better person.

B. W. left for service in June in Westchester County, where they like her very much.

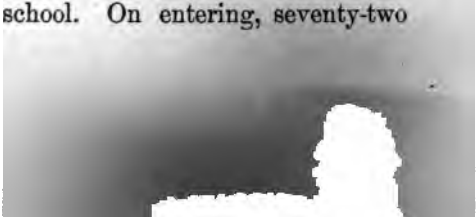
Mary D., H. B., and M. F., left for a factory at Herkimer. Good reports have been made of them all. They are young girls.

A. F., a young girl of sixteen, residing with a family in W——, is doing very well.

C. O'B., who has been living with Mrs. Gibbons for some months, is doing very well.

There are now at the Home four young girls, who are doing well in every respect.

The Home numbered thirty inmates at the commencement of the year 1852. During the year, one hundred and twenty-five women have been received. Ninety-seven have been in school. On entering, seventy-two



could read, eleven could spell—fourteen did not know the alphabet.

Learned to read,	.	.	.	.	.	18
To read short sentences,	.	.	.	.	.	7
Multiplication Table,	.	.	.	.	.	57
Addition,	.	.	.	.	.	62
Multiplication,	.	.	.	.	.	21
Rule of Three,	.	.	.	.	.	19
Calculating dollars and cents,	.	.	.	.	.	55
Writing in books,	.	.	.	.	.	47
On slates,	.	.	.	.	.	15

Committed to memory (between school hours) two hundred and thirty-three chapters from the Bible.

E. D. has committed the Gospel of Matthew.

J. M. (twelve years of age) learned to read, write, and cypher as far as Division. She committed twenty-three chapters.

The inmates, when in school, generally conduct themselves with a great deal of propriety. A great improvement in this respect is evident, the inmates now never refusing to come in school, whereas originally they were very unwilling.

LOOK UP !

" Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

PSALMS.

Rouse thee, child of sorrow,
Lay thy sadness by ;
Look !—a brighter morrow
Dawneth in the sky.
Night is passing over,
Vanishing away ;
Rouse thee to discover
Signs of coming day.

Wherefore weeping ever,
Eyes bent on the ground ?
See ! look upward !—never
Played such light around !
What in all this gladness
O'er thee kindly spread,
Seest thou for sadness ?
—Lone one, lift thy head.

True the Past looks dreary,
True the night was long,
True thy heart is weary,
All untuned to song.
But why look behind thee?—
Wherefore yield to grief?—
Tears can never find thee
Comfort or relief.

Bid the "dead Past" hurry
With his phantoms grim
Far away—and bury,
Bury them and him!
Sepulchre thy weakness,
Lay it all away,—
And in trusting meekness
Wait the coming day.

Selfish is the sorrow
That refuses balm,
Loth from Heaven to borrow
Happiness and calm;—
Evil is the spirit
That will ne'er look up,
When some friend to cheer it
Lifts the soothing cup.

Rouse thee then from weeping,
Rouse thee from regret;
List the Future's teaching,—
"Rally and forget!"

Strong for coming sorrow
If it must needs *be* so,
Hope that each to-morrow
Brighter signs will show.

C. A. BRIGGS.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE PRISON ASSOCIATION.

As has been stated, the society originated in 1844, in consequence of a growing sense of the forlorn condition of persons accused, imprisoned, convicted and released, under the existing laws, some of which have since undergone important modification, especially as to the treatment of accused persons.

The call was made in the names of the following gentlemen :

THEO. FRELINGHUYSEN,
W. T. McCOUN,
SAMUEL JONES,
ELEAZER PARMLY,
GARDINER SPRING,
WILLIAM KENT,
W. B. LAWRENCE,
R. H. MORRIS,
JOHN JAY,
A. VANDERPOEL,
W. C. BRYANT,

B. F. BUTLER,
JAMES HARPER,
DANIEL LORD, JR.,
ISAAC T. HOPPER,
M. ULSHOEFFER,
LEWIS H. SANDFORD,
JOHN W. EDMONDS,
WM. H. CHANNING,
OGDEN HOFFMAN,
M. C. PATTERSON,
RICHARD J. THORN,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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THOS. J. OAKLEY,	HORACE GREELEY,
CHAS. W. SANFORD,	THEO. SEDGEWICK,
W. WALN DRINKER,	HENRY MERRITT,
JOB HASKELL,	J. L. TELLKAMPF,
FREEMAN HUNT,	THEO. A. TELLKAMPF,
SAM'L R. BETTS,	ZEB. COOKE, JR.,
ROBT. B. MINTURN,	JOS. B. COLLINS,
HENRY GRINNELL,	DAVID AUSTIN,
EDMOND L. BENZON,	WM. C. RUSSELL,
CHARLES M. LEUPP,	DAVID HALE,
ABRAHAM VAN NEST,	N. PEARCE,
CHARLES P. DALY,	LEWIS P. W. BALCH,
HENRY W. BELLOWES,	JOHN A. DIX,
ORVILLE DEWEY,	PROSPER M. WETMORE,
JONA. M. WAINWRIGHT,	JOHN T. IRVING,
JOHN HUGHES,	EDWARD S. GOULD,
JAMES MILNOR,	JACOB HARVEY,
HENRY ANTHON,	WILLIAM JONES,
D. P. INGRAHAM,	JAS. R. WHITING.
F. A. TALLMADGE,	

The following Ladies were chosen to act as the first Executive Committee :

MRS. EATON,	MRS. J. W. EDMONDS,
MISS E. ROBBINS,	MRS. WM. KIRKLAND,
MRS. ABBY H. GIBBONS,	MRS. LANGTREE,
MISS STAYLEY,	MRS. ANDREW S. SNELLING,
MRS. S. R. INGRAHAM,	MRS. DR. PALMER,
MRS. E. LANE,	MRS. DR. MASON,
MRS. TOMLINSON,	MRS. J. H. MARTYN
MRS. ROBT. WATSON,	MRS. DEY,

MRS. HAWKINS,	MRS. BEATTY,
MRS. WARD,	MRS. CODWISE,
MRS. G. W. HATCH,	MRS. COCHRAN,
MRS. FITCH,	MRS. J. L. MASON.

MRS. EATON, *First Directress.*
 MRS. J. H. MARTYN, *Second Directress.*
 MRS. FITCH, *Treasurer.*
 MRS. S. D. COCHRAN, *Recording Secretary.*
 MRS. WILLIAM KIRKLAND, *Corresponding Secretary.*

FOR 1852.

CATHARINE M. SEDGWICK, *First Directress.*
 SARAH P. DOREMUS, *Second Directress.*
 ANNA J. H. FITCH, *Treasurer.*
 CAROLINE M. KIRKLAND, *Corresponding Secretary.*
 ANNA CURTIS, *Recording Secretary.*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MISS C. M. SEDGWICK, 54 East 16th street.
 MRS. THOMAS C. DOREMUS, 39 West 22d street.
 MRS. A. J. H. FITCH, 42 East 15th street.
 MRS. C. M. KIRKLAND, 45 Irving Place.
 MRS. JAMES S. GIBBONS, 18 Lamartine Place.
 MRS. EDGAR HICKS, Court street, Brooklyn.
 MRS. ADDISON F. BOND, 84 Myrtle Avenue,
 MRS. JAMES EMERY, 263 Pearl street.
 MRS. A. MEAD, 81 West 20th street.
 MRS. JAMES HALSTEAD, 18 West 17th street.
 MRS. W. C. BRYANT, office Evening Post.
 MRS. JAMES BEATTY, 809 Greenwich street.
 MRS. ALFRED HALL, 134 Franklin street.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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MRS. FREEMAN HUNT, 142 Fulton street.
MRS. BENJAMIN ELLIS, Broome, corner Elm street.
MRS. R. S. DILL, corner Greenwich and Jane streets.
MRS. E. VANDERBURGER, 10 College Place.
MRS. H. W. SMITH, 115 Amos street.
MRS. MAHLON DAY, 129 East 15th street.
MRS. CHARLES TRACY, 82 Lexington Avenue.
MRS. JOHN BEAM, 101 State street, Brooklyn.
MISS HANNAH UNDERHILL, 199 Henry street.
MISS SUSAN B. DAY, 129 East 15th street.
MISS AMY HAWKHURST, 43 Henry street.
MISS ELIZABETH MANNING, Pacific street, Brooklyn.
MISS JANE SEDGWICK.
MISS MARGARET SEDGWICK, 19 West 9th street.
MISS A. CURTIS, 47 Lexington Avenue.
MRS. MILBANK, 213 Madison street.
MRS. HENRY B. SMITH, 11 Lamartine Place.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

HON. J. W. EDMONDS,	ISAAC T. HOPPER,
" JOHN DUER,	JOHN D. RUSS, M. D.,
" JAMES H. TITUS,	RICHARD REED.

MATRONS.

SARAH PURINTON,	AVIS PURINTON.
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TEACHER.

MISS WARD.

PHYSICIAN.

CHARLES McMILLAN, M. D.

Table,

*Showing the whole number received into THE HOME, from
1845 to 1851, inclusive, viz: 1845, 107; 1846, 126;
1847, 99; 1848, 123; 1849, 108; 1850, 148; 1851,
166—877.*

	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	Total
Found situations for.	25	66	27	57	40	57	40	312
Returned to their friends.	7	5	8	11	9	11	51	51
" to evil courses.	14	15	21	28	36	...	114	114
Left without permission.	1	8	...	...	...	...	9	9
" to find places for themselves.	2	9	2	...	...	22	35	35
Sent to Hospital.	9	18	9	6	9	...	46	46
" Magdalen Asylum. . . . .	...	...	2	2	...	2	6	6
" House of Refuge.	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
" Tombs. . . . .	...	1	...	8	...	...	4	4
" Col'd Home. . . . .	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
" Rosine, Philadelphia. . . . .	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	2
" Alms House. . . . .	...	...	...	4	2	8	9	9
" Female Guardian Society. . . . .	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
" Lunatic Asylum. . . . .	...	...	...	...	8	...	3	3
" Randall's Island. . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
" Ward's Island. . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
" Housekeeping. . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2
Discharged, (improper conduct).	1	...	...	...	...	28	24	24
" not proper subjects for the Home.	3	...	...	...	12	...	15	15
In the Home. . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	29	29	29
Not accounted for.	82	22	20	22	18	20	32	211
Grand total.	107	126	99	123	108	148	166	877

ISAAC T. HOPPER.

Nor to inform the public of what it knows very well already, nor to forestal the volume now preparing by Mrs. Child,—a kindred spirit;—but to gratify my own feelings, and to give grace and sanctity to this little book, I wish to say a few words of Father Hopper, the devoted friend of the prisoner as of the slave; one whose long life, and whose last thoughts, were given to the care and succor of human weakness, error, and suffering. To make even the most unpretending book for the benefit of the Home, without bringing forward the name of Isaac T. Hopper, and recognizing the part he took in its affairs, from the earliest moment of its existence until the close of his life, would be an unpardonable omission. A few words must be said, where a volume would scarcely suffice.

“The rich and the poor meet together, and the Lord is the Father of them all,” might stand for the motto of Mr. Hopper’s life. That the most remote of these two classes stood on the same level of benevolent interest in

his mind, his whole career made obvious; he was the last man to represent as naturally opposite those whom God has always, even "to the end of the world," made mutually dependent. He told the simple truth to each with equal frankness; he helped both with equal readiness. The palace awed him no more than the hovel suggested thoughts of superiority. Nothing human—however grand or however degraded—was a stranger to him. In the light which came to him from Heaven, all stood alike children of the Great Father; earthly distinctions disappearing the moment the sinking soul or the suffering body was in question. No amount of depravity could extinguish his hope of reform; no recurrence of ingratitude could paralyze his efforts. Early and late, supported or unsupported, praised or ridiculed—he went forward in the great work of relief, looking neither to the right hand nor to the left; and when the object was accomplished, he shrank back into modest obscurity, only to wait till a new necessity called for his re-appearance. Who can number the poor, aching, conscious, despairing hearts that have felt new life come to them from his kind words, his benignant smile, his "helping hand?" If the record of his long life could be fully written,—which it can never be, since every day and all day, in company, in the

family circle, with children, with prisoners, with the insane —“virtue went out of him” that no human observation could measure or describe,—what touching interest would be added to the history of our poor and vicious population for more than half a century past; what new honor and blessing would surround the venerated name of our departed friend and leader!

But he desired nothing of this. Without claiming for him a position above humanity, which alone would account for a willingness to be wholly unrecognized as a friend of the afflicted, it is not too much to say that no man was ever less desirous of public praise or outward honor. He was even unwilling that any care should be taken to preserve the remembrance of his features, sweet and beautiful as they were, though he was brought reluctantly to yield to the anxious wish of his children and friends, that the countenance on which every eye loved to dwell should not be wholly lost when the grave should close above it. He loved to talk of interesting cases of reform and recovery, both because those things occupied his mind, and because every body loved to hear him; but the hearer who made these disclosures the occasion for unmeaning compliment, as if he fancied a craving vanity to have prompted them, soon found him-

self rebuked by the straight-forward and plain spoken patriarch. Precious indeed were those seasons of outpouring, when one interesting recital suggested another, till the listener seemed to see the whole mystery of prison-life and obscure wretchedness laid open before him with the distinctness of a picture. For, strange as it may seem, our friend had under his plain garb—unchanged in form since the days of Dr. Franklin, to go no further back—a fine dramatic talent, and could not relate the humblest incident without giving it a picturesque or dramatic turn, speaking now for one character, now for another, with a variety and discrimination very remarkable. This made his company greatly sought, and as his strongly social nature readily responded, his acquaintance was very large. To every one that knew him personally, I can appeal for the truth and moderation of these views of his character and manners.

A few biographical items will close what I venture to offer here.

Isaac T. Hopper was born December 3, 1771, in the township of Deptford, Gloucester County, West Jersey, but spent a large portion of his life in Philadelphia, where he served his apprenticeship to the humble calling of a tailor. But neither the necessity for constant occu-

pation nor the temptations of youthful gaiety, prevented his commencing, even then, the devotion of a portion of his time to the care of the poor and needy. He had scarcely reached man's estate when we find him an active member of a benevolent association, and his volumes of notes of cases, plans and efforts, date back to that early period. To that time also we are to refer the beginning of his warm anti-slavery sentiment, a feeling so prominent and effective throughout his life, and the source of some of his noblest efforts and sacrifices. For many years he served as Inspector of Prisons in Philadelphia, and thus, by long and constant practical observation, was accumulated that knowledge of the human heart, in its darkest windings, that often astonished the objects of his care, when they thought they had been able cunningly to blind his eyes to their real character and intentions. After his removal to New York, and when the occasion for his personal labors in the cause of the slave had in some measure ceased or slackened, he threw his whole heart into the Prison Association, whose aims and plans of action were entirely in accordance with his views, and indeed in a great degree based on his experience and advice. The intent of the Prison Association is three-fold : first, to protect and defend those

who are arrested, and who, as is well known, often suffer greatly from want of honest and intelligent counsel; secondly, to attend to the treatment and instruction of convicts while in prison; and, thirdly, on their discharge to render them such practical aid as shall enable the repentant to return to society by means of the pursuit of some honest calling. This latter branch occupied Father Hopper's time and attention, and he devoted himself to it with an affectionate and religious earnestness that ceased only with his life. No disposition was too perverse for his efforts at reform; no heart was so black that he did not at least try the balm of healing upon it; no relapses could tire out his patience, which, without weak waste of means, still, apostolically went on, "hoping all things" while even a dying spark of good feeling remained. Up to February last did this venerable saint continue his abundant labors; when a severe cold, co-operating with the decay of nature, brought him his sentence of dismissal. He felt that it was on the way, and with the serious grace that marked every thing he did, he began at once to gather his earthly robes about him and prepare for the great change, which no one could dread less. It was hard for those who saw his ruddy cheek and sparkling eye, his soft brown hair and

sprightly movements, to feel that the time of his departure was drawing nigh; but he knew and felt it, with more composure than his friends could summon. It might well be said of this our beloved patriarch, that "his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated." To the last of his daily journeyings through the city, for which he generally used the rail-road, he would never allow the drivers to stop for him to get on or off the car—feeling, as he used smilingly to observe, "very jealous on that point." Few ever passed him in the street without asking who he was; for not only did his primitive dress, his broad-brimmed hat, and his antique shoe-buckles, attract attention, but the beauty and benevolence of his face was sure to fix the eye of ordinary discernment. He was a living temperance lecture, and those who desire to preserve good looks could not ask a more infallible recipe, than that sweet temper and out-flowing benevolence which made his countenance please every eye. Gay and cheerful as a boy, he had ever some pleasant anecdote or amusing turn to relate, and in all perhaps not one without a moral bearing, not thrust forward, but left to be picked out by the hearer at his leisure. He seemed born to show how great strictness in essentials could exist without the least ascetism in trifles.

Any thing but a Simeon Stylites in his sainthood, he could go among "publicans and sinners" without the least fear of being mistaken by them for one of themselves. An influence radiated from him that made itself felt in every company, though he would very likely be the most modest man present. More gentlemanly manners and address no court in Christendom need require; his resolute simplicity and candor, always under the guidance of a delicate taste, never for a moment degenerated into coarseness, or disregard even of the prejudices of others. His life, even in these minute particulars, showed how the whole man is harmonized by the sense of being

"Ever in the great Taskmaster's eye."

He died on the 7th of May, 1852, in his eighty-first year, and a public funeral in the Tabernacle brought together thousands desirous of showing respect to his memory. On that occasion several addresses were made, from one of which I will quote a single passage, truly descriptive:

"I would refer to the early days of his life, which he dedicated to God, to goodness, to duty, to labor in his vocation. In that early day his strongest conviction,

perhaps, was that the spirit of the Highest was upon him, calling on him and anointing him "to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty them that were bruised." That he was faithful to the conviction, through good and evil report, many of the poor of our land, and many a broken-hearted slave can abundantly testify."

I subjoin the proceedings of the Prison Association on the occasion of Mr. Hopper's resignation, with his characteristic and beautiful reply :

"At an Adjourned Meeting of the Executive Committee Prison Association held at 15 Centre street, February 9, 1852—

A communication was received from Isaac T. Hopper, tendering his resignation as Agent of the Discharged Convict Committee on account of the delicate state of his health, and expressing his continued sympathy in the objects of the Association, and his best wishes for its future success.

On motion—*Resolved*, That a Committee of Three be appointed to take into consideration the Resignation of Isaac T. Hopper as Agent of the Discharged Convict Committee, and report at the next stated Meeting. Messrs. Edmonds, Russ, and J. Russell were appointed said Committee.

(Extract from the Minutes.)

R. N. HAVENS, *Ch'n. Ex. Com.*

THOS. GALLAUDET, *Sec.*

THOS. T. BENNETT, *Clerk.*

At a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee Prison Association held at their office, 15 Centre street, Friday evening, Feb. 13th, 1852—

The Committee to whom was referred the Resignation of Isaac T. Hopper, Agent, reported through their Chairman, Judge Edmonds, the following :—

This Association have received with undissembled sorrow, the resignation of Isaac T. Hopper, as their Agent for the relief of Discharged Convicts.

He was actively engaged in the organization of the Society, and has ever since been its most valuable member.

His kindness of heart, and his active zeal in behalf of the fallen and erring whom he has so often befriended, have given to this society a lofty character for goodness, which, being a reflection of his own, will endure with the remembrance of him.

His forbearance and patience, combined with his great energy of mind, have given to its action an impetus and a direction, which it is to be earnestly hoped will continue, long after it shall have ceased to enjoy his participation in its active business.

His gentleness and propriety of deportment toward us, his associates, have given him a hold upon our affections, which adds poignancy to our grief at parting with him.

And while we mourn his loss to us, our recollection of the cause of it awakens within us the belief, that the good he has done will smooth his departure from among us, and gives strength to the cheering hope that the recollection of a life well spent, may add even to the happiness that is in store for him hereafter.

On motion—Report was accepted.

Moved and seconded, that the Report be adopted, and that a copy

thereof be presented to Mr. Isaac T. Hopper, by a Committee consisting of Messrs. Havens, J. Russell, and Edmonds.

Yeas and nays being called, it was adopted unanimously.

(Extract from the Minutes.)

R. N. HAVENS, *Ch'n. Ex. Com.*

THOS. GALLAUDET, *Sec.*

THOS. T. BENNETT, *Clerk.*

NEW YORK, *March 19, 1852.*

MR. ISAAC T. HOPPER—*Dear Sir* :—We were appointed by the Prison Association to communicate to you their views as embodied in the enclosed Resolutions. Our desire and intentions were to call upon you personally in performance of that duty, but as we are prevented from doing so, by other engagements, we avail ourselves of this mode, and beg to add our own assurance of our continued regard for you, and our regret at losing your fostering care and attention with the affairs of the Association.

We are very respectfully, your friends,

R. N. HAVENS,

ISRAËL RUSSELL,

J. W. EDMONDS,

Committee.

The Committee appointed to convey the Resolutions, having important engagements, prepared the above letter to accompany them, but afterwards found they were able to deliver them in person.

At a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Prison Association, held at their rooms, 15 Centre street, May 8th, 1852, the following reply of Isaac T. Hopper to Resolutions of the Committee on the occasion of his Resignation as Agent of Committee on Discharged Convicts, was read—Ordered that this reply, with the Resolutions, be published in the newspapers.

To the Executive Committee of the Prison Association :

DEAR FRIENDS :—I received through your Committee, accompanied by Dr. Russ, your Resolutions of the 13th of February, 1852, commendatory of my course while Agent for Discharged Convicts. My bodily indisposition has prevented an earlier acknowledgment.

The kind, friendly, and affectionate manner in which you have been pleased to express yourselves on this occasion, excited emotions which I found it difficult to repress. The approbation of those with whom I have long labored in a deeply interesting and arduous concern, I value next to the testimony of a good conscience. Multiplied years and debility of body admonish me to retire from active life as much as may be, but my interest in the work has not abated. Much has been done, and much remains to be done.

In taking a retrospect of my intercourse with you, I am rejoiced to see that the great principles of humanity, and Christian benevolence, have risen above and overspread sectarian prejudice, that bane of Christianity, and while each has been allowed to enjoy his own religious opinions, without interference from his fellows, we have labored harmoniously together for the promotion of the great object of our Association.

May He who clothes the lilies, feeds the ravens, and provides for the sparrows, and without whose Providential regard all our endeavors must be in vain, bless your labors, and stimulate and encourage you to persevere, so that having, through His aid, fulfilled all your relative and social duties, you may in the end receive the welcome, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world : for I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat, I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink, I was a stranger, and ye took me

in, naked and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me, I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

That this may be our happy experience, is the fervent desire of

Your sincere and affectionate friend,

ISAAC T. HOPPER.

NEW YORK, Fourth Month 15, 1852.

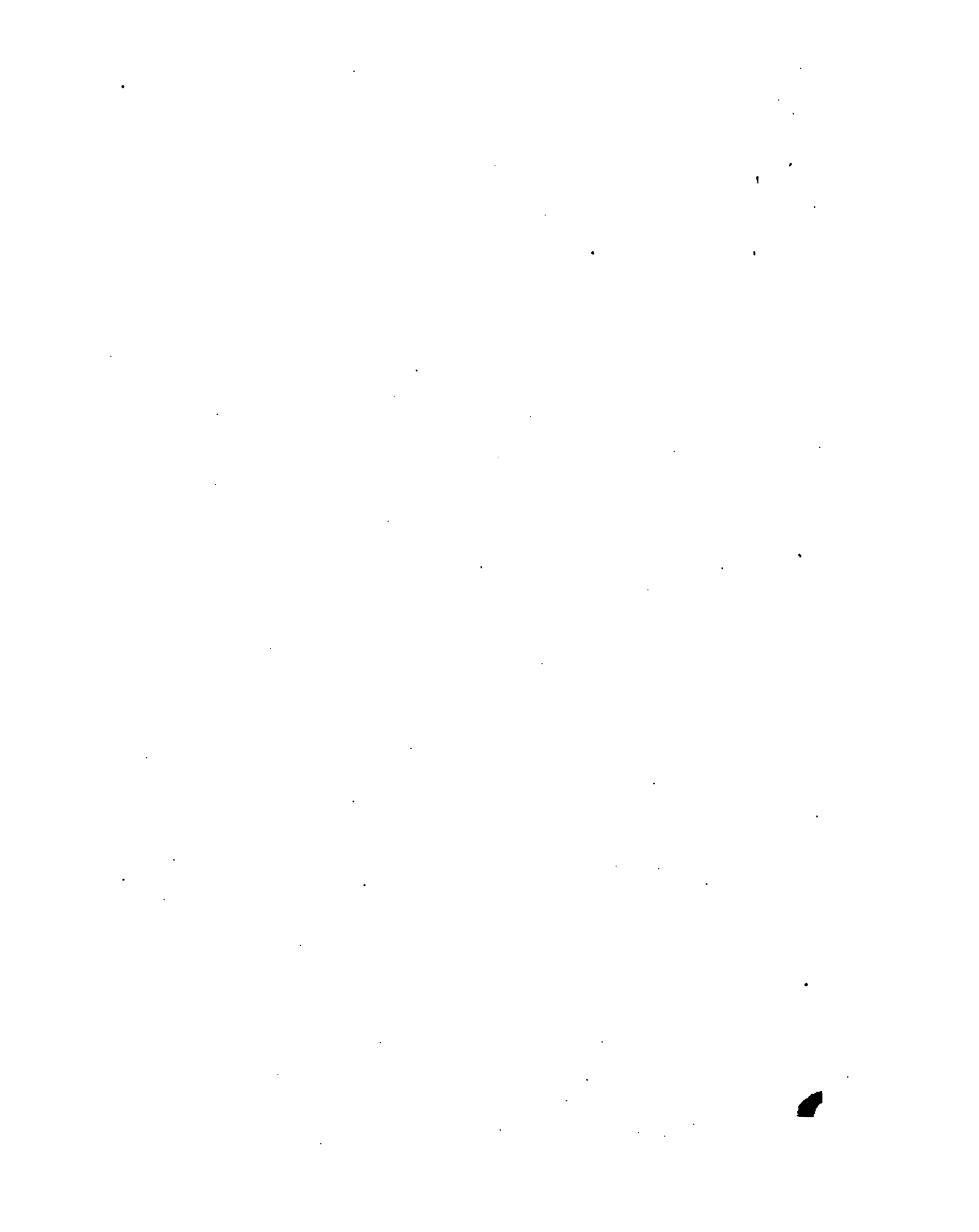
(Extract from the Minutes.)

R. N. HAVENS, *Chairman,*

GEO. E. BAKER, *Sec. pro tem.*

THOS. T. BENNETT, *Clerk.*









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